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This newsletter is a what's-going-on type of communication for everyone concerned with, or about, the new Children's Services Division. Its purpose is to let you know how the pieces are fitting together, which decisions have been made and which haven't, the issues being identified, and the manner in which the children's services community and the division can have back-and-forth communication.

For now, the new division is taking shape, on paper. . .people are mainly "staying put" in their former locations. . .reporting relationships are being changed but programs, services and delivery systems are continuing, uninterrupted. In other words it's business as usual. The newsletter will be produced intermittently as determined by new developments.

The Mandate

It was summed up by the Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services in an April address to the Legislature:

"It is the commitment of this Government to unify the separate programs into an integrated system that is better designed to meet the special needs of children and youth across this Province . . . rationalize and reform such matters as licensing requirements, operating standards and funding.

At the local level, we will be moving quickly to implement a policy in which local governments will be responsible for ensuring the provision of services to their own children".

Who's In Charge?

The Honourable Keith Norton, Minister, Community and Social Services since February 1977. From Kingston, where he specialized in family and juvenile law and was actively involved in community and social services. Elected to Ontario Legislature as M.P.P. for Kingston and the Islands in 1975.

Judge George Thomson, Associate Deputy Minister. Judge of the Provincial Court (Family Division) of Kingston. Initiated training programs to help judges in the area of juveniles. Established innovative reputation in family law.

Peter Barnes, Executive Director. Wide experience in government. Has specialized in organizational matters. Was Director of Organization Policy, Management Board Secretariat.

Dr. Clive Chamberlain, Chief Policy Advisor. Psychiatrist and Associate Professor, Psychiatry, University of Toronto. Was Director of the Family Court Clinic of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry.

Michael Ozerkevich, Policy Advisor, Child Care Standards and Information Services. Comes from the Alberta Association of Child Care Centres where he was Standards Development Director.

Children's Services Division (CSD) – What's Coming

From the Ministry of Health:

Children's Mental Health Services Branch, including 56 licensed Children's Mental Health Centres; eight Regional Children's Centres; six special units for children in psychiatric hospitals, and Family Court Clinics located in Toronto, Kingston, and London, Ontario.

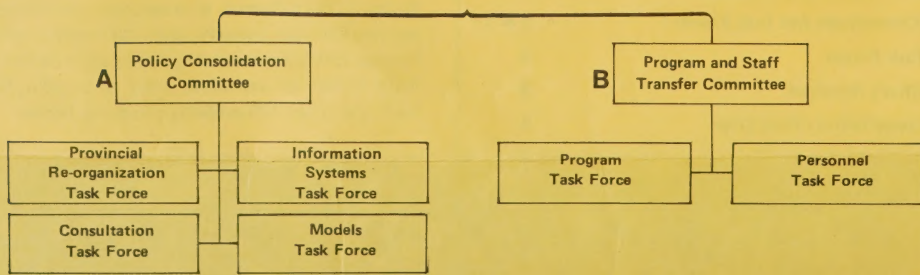
From the Ministry of Correctional Services:

The Juvenile Division comprising nine Training Schools, one Private Training School, an Assessment and Reception Centre and one Outdoor Camp Program; 38 privately operated Group Homes, each accommodating five to eight children, about 200 foster homes for individual, group or boarding-home placement and about 100 privately-run group homes.

From the Ministry of the Attorney General:

Seven Observation and Detention Homes, four Contract Homes and one Psychiatric Clinic. Observation and Detention

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Task Forces

The Task Forces now set up, and future ones, will each have a specific job to do, a set amount of time to do it in — and will exist only for short periods. Other Task Forces will be created to consider new issues, as they evolve.

Their general purpose will be — not to make decisions but to identify issues and options, to provide material “to consult around” . . .

Task Force representation will comprise people in and out of government, in and out of associations concerned with children’s services . . . the selection criteria will be their expertise, even if previously unrelated to children’s services.

The next newsletter will include a procedure — now being developed — for the effective routing and consideration of private association submissions to CSD.

Currently functioning Task Forces, and the committees they report to comprise:

A. Policy Consolidation Committee

Concerned with policy issues, setting priorities, making decisions, assessing reports from related task forces.

Chairperson: Dr. Clive Chamberlain

Provincial Reorganization Task Force

Will recommend programs for inclusion in the new Children’s Services Division. In some areas the decision is a clear one but in others, such as the health and mental retardation fields, the boundary lines are more difficult to draw. The task force will also recommend which services should transfer on July 1st and which should transfer at a later date. As well, the task force will be examining the various methods of transfer (e.g. the new division could take over the running of the program, or it could take over the funding and then contract for the service).

Chairperson: Dr. Clive Chamberlain

Consultation Task Force

Concern with overall plan for the CSD commitment to ongoing communication and consultation with the children’s services community. This newsletter is an early result — as well as a series of May-June meetings throughout the province.

Chairperson: Gordon McLellan

Models Task Force

An attempt to see the system through the eyes of children inside it, or who are passing through it. Purpose is to explore some of the possible ways service might be delivered at the local level once the whole provincial and local reorganization is complete. This would not enable selection of the final model — that will come later — but only help those within the CSD to identify policy issues which must be resolved before an appropriate model can be found.

Chairperson: Judge George Thomson

Information Systems Task Force

Purpose is to identify and review capabilities of existing automated information systems. Or to put it simply, to determine what we have, how effective it is, how it relates to

other systems now and how it will in future. After the first plan for integrating information systems for children is developed, it will be taken to the field for **consultation** with the user. Delays to work-in-progress will be avoided as much as possible.

Chairperson: Mike Ozerkevich

B. Program and Staff Transfer Committee

Concerned with all inter-government aspects of transfer, related information systems and issues, as they emerge.

Chairperson: Peter Barnes

(a) Program Task Force (Working Committee)

Responsible for information on programs CSD will encompass by July 1, 1977 and for inter-ministerial coordination of programs to be consolidated.

(b) Personnel Task Force (Working Committee)

Responsible for classifications, transfer of vacation/attendance credits and similar records.

What’s Resolved

The following outline attempts to summarize those areas where firm policy decisions have been taken, and those areas where decisions have not yet been arrived at.

The Ontario government is committed to the goal of provincial integration and local service delivery. Essential components are:

- A centralized provincial authority
- A local co-ordinating body
- A co-ordinated and planned approach of access to services, planning for placements, follow-up reviews and accountability.
- A diversified delivery system with participation by both the public and voluntary sector.

In working toward these objectives, a high priority has been placed on consultation with those persons and agencies affected by the proposed reforms - without delaying them unduly. It should also be stated that the intention is not to create a whole new service system or a massive bureaucratic structure which impedes assistance to children.

The idea of a centralized provincial authority is being implemented through consolidation of children’s programs in four ministries into a Children’s Services Division within the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The new division will be responsible for overall policy and planning in children’s services. More specifically its goals will include the development and enforcement of unified standards and licensing criteria, and the design of a consistent and equitable cost sharing approach to financing children’s services. It will also have the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the entire delivery system and of developing a comprehensive information system.

In order to bring the new division into place, initial decisions are now being made about what transfer of responsibility will be effective July 1st (most areas) and what will transfer at a

later date (children's units in psychiatric hospitals and children's services in the M.R. program are being considered for later dates). Consideration is also being given to alternative ways by which the new division can undertake responsibility and at the same time maintain continuity with existing organizational arrangements, where these are beneficial to the program.

A number of important longer term issues about the provincial consolidation require deliberation and decision. For example, a major area is that of developing a single, consistent funding approach. Several others might be noted, such as the development of principles and program standards, a comprehensive information system, and in addition, the resolution of a number of key questions about the role of the province as it relates to local bodies and also as it relates to the delivery of certain specialized services.

The concern to strengthen and support families, within their communities, has led to the proposal of setting up local children's bodies - a major new element in the provision of children's services. These bodies would be established at the community or regional level, would be responsible to local government, and also be accountable to the province for consistent delivery of appropriate levels of service.

These local bodies would be responsible for the effective co-ordination and delivery of children's services in their area.

They would develop means of ensuring accountability for children receiving services, and of funding and acquiring necessary services. The local bodies would also ensure provision of adequate assessment services, and would be involved in the area of intake, placement, and follow-up. Planning and design of services at the local level to meet identified needs will also be a responsibility of the local bodies.

Local bodies will be established in areas with regional government; pilot projects will be established in some of the areas not subject to regional government.

Certain aspects of the concept of local bodies still require study and resolution. These include their structure and composition, and the means by which they will be responsible to local government. Consideration also needs to be given to the particular manner in which they will carry out their very major responsibilities. For example, how can a method of ensuring accountability be implemented? What are the best approaches to funding and purchase of service? Where should legal guardianship be placed when wardship orders are made?

It is the intention that a diversified delivery system will continue to exist, consisting of a mix of public and private agencies. These agencies would, however, be responsible for the services offered to the local children's body rather than directly to the provincial government, and would also receive funding through the local body. With a diversified delivery system, an important role of the local body will be to ensure effective co-ordination of available resources. The province will be responsible for facilitating co-ordination among local areas, and also, as noted earlier, for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of all children's services responsible to the Division. The local bodies would also be responsible to the province, which would develop standards, guidelines, and legislation.

The introduction of such major changes will clearly take some time and in all likelihood will need to be phased in on a gradual basis. A schedule for implementation of the overall plan is now being developed and information about the

methods and timing of implementation will be shared when it is available.

Consultation - First Steps

The priority given to consultation is meant to ensure that the CSD takes shape with the fullest possible co-operation, support, and involvement from the children's services community, and from the community at large.

The first steps in consultation include a series of meetings with provincial organizations. The Minister and/or Associate Deputy Minister have recently been meeting with executives of provincial organizations, both public and private, concerned with children's services.

Purpose of the meetings is to share information about the new division, to exchange views and discuss particular areas of concern, and to develop a mutual understanding about later consultation.

First steps also include the organization of local area meetings during June. These have been planned by senior district representatives of Community and Social Services, Correctional Services, and Health. Meetings will be an initial opportunity for agency heads and board presidents to meet with Judge Thomson and other senior staff of the new division.

For additional copies of this newsletter or inquiries that cannot be answered through normal channels of communication, **Contact:**

Abbie Allan
Communications Branch
Ministry of Community and Social Services
7th Floor, Hepburn Block
Toronto, Ontario

(416) 965-7825



In the past several months since the inception of the Children's Services Division, considerable work has been undertaken in a variety of areas. In this, the third newsletter, we present a brief accounting of some of the activities members of the Division have been engaged in.

Progress Report

All programs from the four Ministries involved in the transfer, Community and Social Services, Health, Correctional Services, and the Ministry of the Attorney General, except mental retardation and children's units in psychiatric hospitals transferred on July 1st. M.R. Daycare transferred as well.

Work is in progress to develop a plan for the transfer of other M.R. Programs for children. Senior members of the Division have visited a number of facilities and resources, have met with the Developmental Resources group and with non-governmental Associations and interested persons. A preliminary paper indicating the Division's present ideas regarding transfer has been prepared for discussion. A policy decision is expected by the end of the year.

Re-organization of the Division

A project is underway to develop a proposal for re-organization of the Division. The intention is to develop a long-term organizational structure and to determine the steps and stages by which this will be accomplished.

Implementation of the Plans for Local Co-ordination

Dr. Clive Chamberlain's staff are working full-time on the development of the discussion paper to be released soon. (See "Program Development and Research Page 5).

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Development of Program Priorities

The Director of each branch within the Division prepared a statement of program goals and priorities for the next two years. These have been submitted to the policy section of the Division with the goal of having an over-all Division statement of program priorities.

On-going Program Change

- a joint proposal for the use of Observation and Detention Homes by Corrections' staff for precommittal assessments of children before the Toronto Courts is nearing completion.
- the use of Training Schools as places of safety has been terminated.
- a full-time director of Observation and Detention Homes has been hired.
- an observation home manual is almost completed.
- a four-phase observation and detention home experimental project for Eastern Ontario is being prepared.
- work is proceeding to develop observation and detention homes in the North through use of under-utilized residential facilities.
- a full review of all homes for physical and fire safety has been completed and changes implemented.
- a Children's Aid Society budget formula is being developed in consultation with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.
- Day Nurseries guidelines for the care of handicapped children are being developed.
- work is progressing on the revision of private home day care guidelines.
- plans have been announced to ensure earlier completion of the Children's Aid Societies budget process.
- steps have been taken to speed-up implementation of the day care information system.

Standards and Systems

A major paper on information systems is in progress and will be completed this fall. This paper will outline the Division's goals with respect to information system development including the issue of confidentiality. The paper is being produced for consultation prior to adoption.

A major paper on short-term and long-term standards development is underway. Once again this paper is being prepared for consultation prior to implementation.

Extensive work is being done to develop a catalogue of resources including a means by which to maintain an up-to-date inventory of all vacant spaces. The initial work relates to residential programs and should be completed by April, 1978.

Work is being done with the Metro Toronto Committee which is attempting to develop a model group home zoning by-law.

Financial Control

A financial analysis team is now in place and is in the midst of completing the development of a financial review system which will enable monthly analysis of expenditures across the Children's Services Division.

Law Reform

Short-term Legislative Package:

A package of materials containing discussion notes and draft legislation is nearing completion. These materials will suggest law reform covering The Child Welfare Act, The Training Schools Act, The Children's Institutions Act, The Children's Boarding Homes Act, The Provincial Courts Act, The Children's Mental Health Centres Act, and The Day Nurseries Act.

A committee has been formed to develop a paper on the Provincial response in those areas to be delegated to the Provinces under The Young Offenders Act. Once again the hope is to prepare a paper for consultation indicating the Province's intended course of action.

Policy and Research

The North: Dr. Chamberlain's group is preparing a paper on services to the North.

Francophone Services: Dr. Chamberlain's staff are beginning to develop a paper on Francophone Services particularly for the east and north-eastern regions of the Province.

Consultation

- community liaison groups have been established and are functioning;
- a procedure for receiving, cataloguing and making use of briefs and proposals has been put into place;
- a monthly outline of papers received is being distributed.
- a regular newsletter is being produced

Holland Decision — Minister's Statement

In a statement made in September, the Honourable Keith Norton clarified the Ministry's position concerning costs of placement under Section 20 of the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

... The recent decision of the Supreme Court of Ontario (by Mr. Justice John Holland, April 21, 1977) relating to group home placements has been upheld by the Ontario Court of Appeal (June 24, 1977). This decision limits the power of judges to place children directly into residential care.

... Leave to appeal this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada will be sought later this month. This decision has resulted in considerable confusion concerning the placement in and funding of residential care for children under Section 20 of the Juvenile Delinquents Act. (Leave to appeal was granted in October.)

CSD staff has been instructed to work with all parties concerned to clarify how the decision can be implemented without disruption of care and treatment of the children involved.

... A detailed set of guidelines for action has been sent to all presidents and local directors of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies, municipalities, Judges of the Provincial Courts (Family Division), probation and after-care officers, operators of children's institutions and children's boarding homes, Family Court Clinics and observation/detention homes.

It was announced earlier that the Province will reimburse municipalities for 50 percent of placement costs. Although the Holland decision will probably reduce financial demands made on municipalities, the Province will honour this commitment on all existing costs of current placements and any subsequent orders for placement which may be made by Judges.

No financial provision was made in the 1977 estimates submitted by the Children's Aid Societies for an increase in the number of children placed in their care who in the past would have been committed directly to private resources with charges to the municipalities.

... We are therefore asking all Children's Aid Societies to maintain a list of children placed jointly under the Juvenile Delinquents Act and the Child Welfare Act. Where necessary, we are prepared to provide supplemental funding in addition to any monies already allocated in the 1977 approved estimates to cover possible placements and associated costs or supervision.

... Currently the Province is financing the cost of children's services in excess of 90 percent of their total costs when all such services are taken into account. The wide variety of funding mechanisms for all children's services did produce some inequalities for all parties — for the children, the municipalities and the Province.

... One of the principal goals of the new Children's Services Division of this Ministry is to develop over the long run a cost-sharing approach between the Province and the municipalities that is both fair and reflects our mutual responsibilities for meeting the needs of children.

... I can assure you that this Ministry will continue to monitor this situation closely and will remain prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that

appropriate resources are available to children in trouble who are brought before the Family Courts of this Province.

Ellis Inquest — Statement by The Hon. Keith Norton

The disastrous history of the Ellis Family has disturbed us all. We are distressed at the human suffering of those involved and sympathetic towards those whose intention is to help. We are distressed too by the seeming inability of the system to have effectively aided Deborah and Brooks Ellis and their children.

The Ellis family history is now well known, including the deprived childhoods of the Ellis parents. It is our hope that, generally, where there is the need to protect a child or to make a family viable, this need is being met.

My Ministry is strongly committed to preventing child abuse. We have been actively reviewing ways to gather information about potential child abuse risks to children and ways to help families with a history of, or potential for violence or serious disturbances. We agree with the concept of a central child abuse registry and, while one actually does exist, we have been considering ways to increase its visibility and effectiveness.

Our study of the legal aspects of child abuse is completed and we intend, by fall, to put forward a comprehensive package of proposals for reform of the Child Welfare Act.

We have already actively encouraged and supported the development of child abuse teams across the Province. Our policy, in concert with general community concern, has resulted in a network of services across Ontario. Hospital-based treatment teams, or community child abuse committees, are either operating or are being organized in a number of communities including, Ottawa, Kingston, Kenora, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Sault Ste. Marie, Guelph, St. Catharines, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Windsor, Timmins, Kirkland Lake; The Counties of Simcoe, Renfrew, Lanark, Lambton, Peel, Prescott and Russell, Huron, Grey, Bruce and York; and the Regional Municipalities of Waterloo and Durham.

We believe that child abuse prevention revolves around a community's intent to have everyone, professionals and public, concerned, vigilant and equipped with the resources needed for immediate and effective intervention. Our program is directed towards getting teachers, police, hospital staff, coroners, day nursery staff, public health officials, children's aid society and court workers and citizens to communicate with another, and to co-ordinate the resulting information and programs.

An issue raised by the Ellis case is that of compulsory sterilization. Our view is that its implications and possible ramifications are enormous and highly sensitive. As it runs counter to principles generally held in the human rights field, we feel the thrust should be directed towards diminishing child abuse and the number of potential child abusers and towards helping children where the problem exists.

As to admissibility of evidence, we feel that judges should be allowed to receive evidence about neglect or abuse of other children in the family to determine any existing risk to a younger child, and that family court clinics and others preparing assessments for a judge should have — if they don't actually now have — the right of accessibility to court files. We will be exploring this with the Attorney General in the very near future.

The need of full psychiatric assessments of parents involved in child protection cases is one we have already been examining and we are considering amendments to the Child Welfare Act to allow judges to order such assessments.

A child's right to legal representation in court cases is one we advocate and we have indicated to the Attorney General our support for the Mendes Da Costa recommendations. We would like to see different forms of representation considered especially to ensure adequate representation in "Risk Factor" cases.

As the Minister responsible for Children's Services, I am committed to continue to explore in detail the specific recommendations arising from the inquest and implement whatever steps are necessary. Although much has been accomplished over the last two years, through child abuse prevention programs of my Ministry and other agencies, all our efforts involved in helping children must be accelerated.

Standards Development

Since the last newsletter went to press, the Standards and Information Systems Group, reporting to Michael Ozerkevich, has been formed. The staff of the group is responsible for the drafting of proposed standards for children's services in Ontario. They are a multi-disciplined team, trained and experienced in child-care, psychology, law, sociology, political science, social work, economics, planning criminology, administration and systems development.

The group's work is organized on a project management basis. Such an approach permits the undertaking of research and development work requiring parallel or multi-phased tasks in concert with other groups within the Division and the Ministry. It also encourages direction and input from the rich and varied professional and academic experience of members of the group.

The members are: Anne Sheffield, lawyer; economists Robert Silverston and Kathy Wood; social workers Jim Anglin and Dave Millar; criminologist Sandy Lang; social psychologist Sabarijah Klein; public administration specialist Patricia Kenyon; political scientist Ron Bakker; Observation and Detention Home Manager Doug Lawton and administrative assistant Penny Mitchell.

A Provincial Standards Development Advisory Committee has been formed. The governmental and non-governmental membership of the Advisory Committee will be widely representative to reflect the issues with which the standards will deal.

The dramatic changes in the nature and extent of the demand for children's services in Ontario over the past decade underline the need for major service standards development. But it is important to remember that, while standards assist in the maintenance of a high-quality and efficient service delivery system, they remain an aid to, and not a substitute for, the caring process.

Education Program — Help in Being a Parent

A comprehensive educational campaign planned by the Child Abuse program is being launched this fall. Public service announcements are being sent to radio and television stations throughout the Province. The announcements invite interested parents to write for Ministry material on dealing with problems of parenting.

Eight pamphlets, the "Friendly, Fair and Firm" series on positive parenting, have been produced jointly with the Dellcrest Children's Centre. These are available from the office of Dr. Herbert Sohn, Co-ordinator, Child Abuse Program, 1 St. Clair Avenue West, 2nd Floor.

Two pamphlets — "You and the Abused Child" and "The Abused Child" — have been published. These are available from the Communications Branch, 7th Floor, Hepburn Block, Queen's Park.

This public education campaign is a facet of the Child Abuse Program in Ontario. The goal of the program, now in its second year, is the active encouragement, promotion and development of community-based inter-professional, interagency initiatives in detection, prevention, case management and treatment.

More than 30 local interprofessional seminars have been held leading in many instances to the development of local planning and/or case management teams. In addition, the Ministry is funding demonstration projects throughout the Province designed to improve knowledge about the problem of child abuse and the capacity of professional teams to deal with it.

Gordon McLellan, Executive Director, Community Liaison and Child Welfare, is chairman of the Ministry's Child Abuse Committee. The program, which originally evolved from recommendations of this Committee, is co-ordinated by Dr. Herbert A. Sohn.

Update on Program Transfers

Work is continuing on the transfer of further programs to the Children's Services Division. Contracts are being prepared with psychiatric hospitals relating to the provision of children's and adolescent's services. Under these contracts funding will be the responsibility of the Division while delivery of service will be carried out by the hospital and the Ministry of Health. Regarding the Mental Retardation Program, the Division is now developing recommendations for a proposed transfer.

Once work has been brought nearer to a conclusion in these two areas, the Division will commence its review of other programs which may be candidates for transfer.

Children's Services Directory

CSD Head Office staff is scattered in four different locations in Toronto as shown in outline below. Arrangements for consolidated accommodation are underway.

Present Locations:

1 St. Clair Avenue West

2nd Floor Mr. John R. Mucha, Consultation Task Force

2nd Floor Dr. Herb Sohn, Co-ordinator, the Child Abuse Program

6th Floor Mrs. Elsie Etchen, Director and staff of the Day Nurseries Branch

6th Floor Senior Advisor Mr. Mike Ozerkevich and the Child Care Standards and Systems Group

6th Floor Mr. Doug Lawton, Manager for Observation and Detention Homes

6th Floor Executive Director Mr. Gordon McLellan and staff, Community Liaison and Child Welfare

8th Floor Mr. Ken Macdonald, Director of Child Welfare

11th Floor Associate Deputy Minister Judge George Thomson and his personal staff.

11th Floor Executive Director Dr. Clive Chamberlain and the Research and Development Group

11th Floor Executive Director Mr. Peter Barnes, and Directors Dr. Ken Beck, Bob Cannon and immediate staff

11th Floor Mr. Alan Leslie, Director and the Financial Group

7 Overlea Blvd.

7th Floor Director Mr. Doug Finlay, Staff for Children's Mental Health Services

2001 Eglinton Avenue East

4th Floor Training School Advisory Board, staff and Training School Ward Records Group

Hepburn Block, Queen's Park

7th Floor Mr. Ed. Magder, Ass't. Director, Child Welfare Branch. Field Services Supervisors and Field Consultants Child Welfare Branch

7th Floor Mrs. Victoria Leach, Adoption Co-ordinator

Consultation Update

In The Community

A rigorous schedule of consultation meetings between the community and the Division has been ongoing since May.

By the end of October, senior staff will have met with 60 different associations and groups. In addition, individual staff members have had meetings with many other agencies, committees, workshops and conferences. At

the meetings, we have been given an opportunity to introduce the division and to discuss, in general, forthcoming consultation issues.

Our community liaison groups have been meeting with local agencies, groups and individuals. Most of these meetings have concentrated on local organization. For example, many communities have formed working committees. These committees will prepare consultation papers in response to the Division's issue papers, seeking endorsement from other individuals and groups who are not a part of the working committee. Examples of this type of activity have been reported from Rainy River, London, Hamilton, Niagara, Belleville, Glengarry, Ottawa and Peel. If you are interested in knowing about similar activities that may be happening in your community, please see the August newsletter for your community liaison group listing. They will bring you up-to-date.

In Queen's Park

Our consultation files are growing. As of the end of October, we have opened 134 files on groups, municipalities and agencies which have corresponded with us. Another 116 individuals and groups have expressed interest in being actively involved through future task forces. We have received 32 briefs and other information documents. The overwhelming interest is on the development of the local children's services committees and the establishment of pilot projects.

Three major consultation papers will be available soon. The papers cover the following areas:

- 1) package of material being prepared by the Program Development and Research staff (see next column) on children's services committees;
- 2) package of proposed legislative amendments dealing with all major pieces of legislation now being administered by the Division. (The proposals will not represent a comprehensive legislative redrafting, but are rather a group of interim program improvements and legislative housekeeping proposals);
- 3) a paper on information systems prepared by the Information Systems Task Force.

A Word About Briefs

We have established a central receiving point for consultation briefs submitted to the Division.

When briefs, accompanied by the face sheets are received they will be noted, logged, catalogued and circulated to the appropriate task force, committee or liaison group. Interested groups and individuals can request copies of briefs which are of interest. Face sheets will also be circulated to senior staff, as well as all community liaison groups. Blank face sheets can be obtained from either your local community liaison group, or from the address shown below. If a face sheet (available from your community liaison group) is not submitted with a brief, a member of the consultation task force staff will prepare one. Unless confidentiality is specifically

requested by the submitter, we will assume that any submission is open for our distribution process.

If you are submitting briefs for consultation, or wish to inquire about your brief, please address queries to:

Mr. Gordon McLellan
Ministry of Community & Social Services
1 St. Clair Avenue West
6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1H2
Telephone: 965-7636

We will make every effort possible to acknowledge all briefs as quickly as possible, as well as ensure that prompt action is taken in the processing of the briefs.

Program Development And Research

Under the direction of Dr. Clive Chamberlain, the Program Development and Research section is preparing a document to be used as the basis for consultation around the issue of local children's services committees. The purpose of this document will be to assist local communities and groups throughout Ontario in developing suggestions and recommendations for improved coordination of children's services at the local level. In recognition of the fact that the question of local coordination and accountability is highly complex, and that many problem areas await solutions, materials within the document will be presented in exploratory fashion. As previous policy statements from the Ministry have indicated, accountability to local government will be an essential feature in any of the models that might be proposed as possible local children's services committees. However, within this context, many variations and possibilities exist.

Given the Province's continuing role for over-all planning and policy development, the establishment and enforcement of standards of service, legislative responsibility, and general overview to ensure adequate services across the Province, a developmental model for a local Children's Services committee might pass through a number of stages: general advisory function and responsibility for handling particularly hard to place and serve children; budgetary review, planning and priority setting; and finally, full responsibility for ensuring delivery of all services within its jurisdiction.

At the various stages of its development, the local committee might assume more specifically some or all of the following responsibilities: 1 - determination of service needs; 2 - identification of gaps in service; 3 - ensuring availability of services; 4 - evaluation and monitoring of services provided; 5 - general control over access to service and placement; 6 - ensuring adequate assessment and referral; 7 - financing of children with special needs; 8 - planning, priority setting, financial review and allocation of funds; 9 - general advisory, coordinating and directive function; 10 - evaluation of committee's own performance.

During the consultation process, it is expected that various municipalities, agencies, coalitions of agencies and others will be offering general reactions to the ideas contained in the discussion paper. Further, they will be commenting on how those ideas relate to the circumstances found within their particular community. And finally, between December 15, 1977 and March 15, 1978, some groups will be forwarding specific proposals to the Ministry for the establishment of children's services committees within their local area. These three activities will be facilitated with the assistance of the Community Liaison Groups which have been put in place throughout the province. The Children's Services Division newsletter will be keeping people informed of issues raised during the consultation process.

One result of the consultation will be to assist the Ministry in determining final criteria for the selection of models to be established as local committees after April 1, 1978.

Various developmental models will be selected and might begin operation from a number of starting points with different degrees of sophistication in terms of functions and responsibilities. It is expected that at least one model will be put in place in Northern Ontario, and other models will possibly include a regional municipality area, a more rural or county area, or other. Population sizes will differ but a minimal size for cost-effectiveness will be required. Funding arrangements for the first year of operation will be worked out between the Province and the local bodies selected. Other models, or modifications to the models put in place during 1978, will be established elsewhere in 1979 based on experience gained over the coming year. Consultation will of course continue throughout, and local communities will be kept informed of problems, issues and progress that develop.

To assist the Program Development and Research section a special Task Force has been established to review the document concerning local children's committees before public distribution. This Task Force will likewise review other documents forthcoming in the consultation process. Its membership includes:

James Armstrong, Central Toronto Youth Services, Toronto; Graham Berman, M.D., Ontario Medical Association, Ontario Psychiatric Association; W. Macmillan Carson, Ontario Municipal Social Service Administrators, Commissioner of Social Services, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth; Ralph Garber, Dean, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto; Guy Goulard, Judge, Provincial (Family) Court, Ottawa; Trip Kennedy, Municipal Liaison Committee, Alderman, City of Ottawa; M.J. MacMillan, Senior Probation and Aftercare Officer, Hamilton; Edward Mitchelson, Municipal Liaison Committee, Councillor, Regional Municipality of Niagara; Pat Mulgrew, Child Development Centre, Kenora; Barry Sheppard, Executive Director, United Way, London; Walter Swain, Board of Directors, Children's Aid Society, Sault Ste. Marie; Jesse Watters, Department of Psychiatry, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

New Policy Advisors

Philippa McKen is developing planning for Northern and Francophone services as well as services for handicapped children. She joined the staff in July. Roma Scott joined the staff at the beginning of October, coming to us from the Research Division of the Ministry of Corrections. She is currently working on analysis of issues relating to transfer of programs from other ministries. Malcolm Shookner arrived in August. Since then he has been reviewing international experience with coordination of human services delivery. Paul Siemens is currently working on the provincial complement to the expected young offenders legislation as well as overseeing planning for further transfer of further services to the Division. Walter Tuohy is responsible for developing plans for local children's committees which will be an ongoing assignment as consultation and implementation proceed. He joined the staff mid September. Cathey Evans is secretary to Dr. Clive Chamberlain. Sharon Firanski is secretary to the policy advisors.

Training Schools as Places of Safety

Training schools will no longer be used as temporary places of safety for wards of Children's Aid Societies.

A directive has been sent from Chief Judge H.T.G. Andrews and J.K. Macdonald, Director, Child Welfare, to all Societies and Provincial Family Court Judges.

... Training schools may not be used under the Child Welfare Act as places of safety or as placements during an adjournment. And furthermore, any placement under the Child Welfare Act by either an apprehending officer or a judicial order is prohibited by law, the directive states in part.

Observation and Detention Homes

The Directors of the six government-run and eight contract Observation and Detention Homes are now meeting monthly with Chairman Michael Ozerkevich. The group shares information and discusses staff development and program enrichment.

One of the major goals of the Observation and Detention Home team is the development of a standard policy and procedures manual which will be used for the guidance and training of staff in the Homes across the Province. Interviews are being conducted with each Home to determine existing policies and procedures. The manual is scheduled for completion by March, 1978.

Recent work in the field of juvenile detention indicates the need for flexible programming. CSD is presently studying a four-stage model of detention, which encompasses the whole range of degrees of security, from locked settings, to lockable, shelter or group home to home care.



This special edition newsletter has been issued to inform you that the *Consultation Paper on Short-term Legislative Amendments* is now available. The summary, which follows, is intended to acquaint you with the contents of the 140-page paper and to help you decide whether or not you wish to obtain a copy for study and response. Copies are available from:

- i. your local community liaison group (see attached list),
or
- ii. the Consultation Task Force, 2nd Floor, 1 St. Clair
Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1H2 (telephone:
416-965-1891).

Face sheets will be supplied, at the same time, to accompany your responses to the Division. Unless otherwise requested, all written responses will be made available to senior staff, task forces, community liaison groups, and other interested groups and individuals.

Consultation Paper on Short-term Legislative Amendments

A number of matters of immediate concern relating to children and their families have an effect on the law and are thought to require legislative reform. The proposals in this package attempt to provide that legal response. We feel that the suggested changes are consistent with the long-term objectives of the Children's Services Division and represent a commitment to deal with the needs and issues identified during the early months of the Division's existence. In addition, a number of changes are necessary to enable the Division to implement the standards and funding approaches presently being developed.

The Acts we propose amending are

The Child Welfare Act,
The Children's Boarding Homes Act,
The Children's Institutions Act,
The Provincial Courts Act,
The Training Schools Act,
The Day Nurseries Act, and
The Children's Mental Health Centres Act.

Some of our more significant proposals are highlighted below.

The Child Welfare Act

Some of our proposed amendments to *The Child Welfare Act* relate directly to the length of time children are in care. We have attempted to reduce uncertainty for the child by encouraging earlier decisions to return a child to the family or free the child for adoption. Where adoption is contemplated, we have sought to reduce uncertainty for the adoptive parents at an earlier stage. Where Crown wardship is in effect, we recommend a review of societies' caseloads and the possible return of the child to his or her home if no permanent placement has been made after two years.

Child abuse also receives special attention in our suggestions regarding the Act. We recommend mandatory reporting by professionals as well as increased penalties for offenders.

Following a recommendation by the Attorney-General, we have sought to provide for legal representation for children in protection hearings. We also propose that the media be granted access to report on the judicial process, provided that no identifying information is published.

Other proposals concern the regulation of private adoptions, procedures for submission and review of children's aid society budgets, clarification of non-ward care arrangements, and the availability of non-ward agreements in exceptional cases involving persons 16 and 17 years of age. Also, there are several proposals relating to Court procedures and the right of older children to be involved in and to initiate proceedings, as well as recommendations relating to proof of child abuse.

The Children's Boarding Homes Act

We hope to develop a statutory structure which will enable us to establish and regulate standards in all children's residential care programs. With this objective in mind, we wish to amend the categories of facilities exempted from regulation under *The Children's Boarding Homes Act*. We also propose that the authority of the Act be extended to facilities providing service to three or more children. The present process of registration should be changed to one of licensing and the authority of the Act should eventually be extended over all premises offering residential care. Finally, in light of our broader objectives, we propose changing the name of the Act to *The Children's Residential Services Act*.

The Children's Institutions Act

It will also be necessary to make amendments to *The Children's Institutions Act* to allow for the development of standards and a more rational approach to funding. For example, these institutions will now be required to obtain a license under the new *Children's Residential Services Act*, with the Minister retaining the power to approve funding and to revoke such approvals. Need for the service is included as a factor in this decision. Procedures for a hearing in the face of a decision to rescind funding will be retained. In addition the funding mechanism would be transferred to the Regulations to allow for the development of one, flexible funding approach for all residential services.

The Provincial Courts Act

We are proposing that, while admission and discharge should be subject to judicial control, the general administration of observation and detention homes should be carried on under Ministerial control. As well, temporary care and custody of children in such homes should be vested in the superintendent. Observation and detention homes should be subject to standards development under *The Children's Residential Services Act*.

The Training Schools Act

Our review of *The Training Schools Act* indicates three areas which require change. We believe in the right to a judicial hearing for wards whose community placement has not been successful and who face return to training school. In accordance with the Ministry's intention to establish standards, we wish to make training schools subject to the new *Children's Residential Services Act*. This change will enable us to implement new standards within Juvenile Corrections programs which are consistent with those we are developing in other children's services. Finally, there are a number of issues and procedures which past experience has shown require clarification—for example, the role of the group home program, the authority to apprehend runaway wards, and the vesting of wardship authority in Area Administrators.

The Day Nurseries Act

We propose several short-term amendments to *The Day Nurseries Act* which will respond to requests from the public for extension of services and comply with the Division's desire to establish a broad range of standards. Recommendations include increasing the maximum age of children in care from 10 to 12 years, expanding the power to provide in-home services for handicapped children, requiring private home day care agencies to be licensed, and expanding the licensing requirement to cover day nurseries operated by private schools and children's mental health centres.

The Children's Mental Health Centres Act

Proposals under this Act include separation of the decision to license from the decision to fund, the right to decide whether or not to fund on the basis of need, the power to prescribe and approve by-laws, and transfer of the funding mechanism to the Regulations.

Children's Rights

There are certain fundamental principles which we feel must be guaranteed for the protection of children in all residential care facilities in Ontario. These include a child's right to reasonable communication with his or her parents, assured medical treatment, access to residential care records by parents, the child or the child's legal representative, the right to a grievance procedure, control over the use of dissociation and prohibition of corporal punishment. We propose implementing these guarantees in a number of ways and solicit feedback on how they should apply to various programs.

Draft Acts and Explanatory Notes

We have prepared draft legislation to reflect the amendments being recommended in the Consultation Paper. These would be of interest to legal practitioners and specialists in their review of the paper. A limited number of copies are available. Requests should be directed to the Consultation Task Force.

Future Consultation Papers

Future consultation papers will discuss automated information systems and the establishment of local children's services committees. Special editions of the newsletter will be issued as these papers become available.

Mailing List

We are in the process of updating and streamlining our newsletter mailing list. If you are aware of any errors, or if you wish to have names added to the list, please contact the Consultation Task Force.

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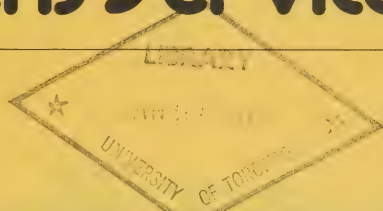
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This special edition newsletter has been issued to inform you that the *Consultation Paper, Local Children's Services Committees: Planning for the Future*, is now available. Copies may be obtained from:

- ii. your local community liaison group (see attached list), or
- ii. the Consultation Task Force, 2nd Floor,
1 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1H2 (telephone: 416-965-1891).

Face sheets will be supplied, at the same time, to accompany your responses to the Division. Unless otherwise requested, all written responses will be made available to senior staff, task forces, community liaison groups, and other interested groups and individuals.

We are currently preparing a French language edition of this newsletter and the Consultation Paper. Anyone who is interested in receiving a copy may notify the Consultation Task Force.

The following letter from the Honourable Keith Norton is addressed to readers of the papers. We have published it here to acquaint you with the highlights and to help you decide whether or not you wish to obtain a copy.

Local Children's Services Committees:

Planning for the Future

Letter from the Honourable Keith Norton

The intention of this letter to you is to introduce a paper for consultation entitled *Local Children's Services Committees: Planning for the Future*. For purposes of full and adequate discussion the paper itself is necessarily lengthy, but I personally wish to ensure that even a casual reader will not miss the highlights.

The paper intends to stimulate general discussion on the ways we help children with special needs and their families. We all know that real children often have changing and complex requirements for healthy development, but we have had a tendency to reduce complex human conditions to abstract categories. Thus we define such children variously as the 'handicapped', 'disturbed', 'neglected' or 'delinquent'. You will note that each of these categories has tended to become associated with its own separate service system in spite of the reality that most children defy such easy classification. The consequence of this thinking has been a failure to appropriately serve children with multiple needs and a failure to plan adequately for a spectrum of service from prevention to intensive intervention.

To develop appropriate care and establish a full range of service, we must begin to think in terms of needs, both at an individual level and in aggregate for planning purposes. By beginning with needs, rather than with a small group of abstract categories, we are offered an opportunity to cut the Gordian knot of a system which, no matter how sophisticated, may continue to elude those who need help most. We must begin to think in terms of 'what specific services or assistance does this child and family need for healthy growth?' rather than 'what category does this child fit and therefore what agency or program should he or she be referred to?'

It is essential that we find better ways to allocate our scarce resources which means, in many cases, less expensive means of providing service. In order to meet the needs of children and their families, and yet keep costs under reasonable control, the provincial government has embarked on a process of integration of services. I would like to emphasize the word 'process' here, and make it clear that a period of time for

development will be required to effect genuine integration at the provincial level. It will likewise require some time before full coordination of all services at the local government, is achieved. This will first require completion of a set of tasks - the identification of a universal spectrum of needs, types of services to meet these needs, an elaboration of standards and development of an adequate information system. All of this will lead to planned priorities for allocation of funds and resources. Also at this stage the means of control over access to service will have to be developed. It is essential that the local children's committee supervise utilization and regulate the allocative aspect of assessment.

Provincial funding will flow to and be allocated by local government, which would thereby have, whatever the structure and composition of the committee, full authority, within the context of provincial responsibility for the delivery of appropriate levels of service and setting of standards. This goal cannot be easily or quickly achieved. In addition to the time required by the Children's Services Division to develop the necessary technology and organization, mutual understanding and trust must develop between and among local government, service deliverers and consumers, and working relationships must be established. The importance of this collaboration at the local level cannot be over-emphasized.

Accordingly we have decided to initiate two processes simultaneously. We have begun the task, in the provincial government, of putting our own house in order. We will, in the months ahead, develop proposals for service and program priorities, legislation, standards and information services, and will proceed to implementation of full intergration of services. This will prepare for the time when responsibility will be assumed by local government. However, before that time, it is essential that we begin to develop local children's services committees which can take on these new responsibilities. Because we are in largely unknown territory, only a few such committees will be established at the outset, permitting selection of favourable circumstances variation in location and model, and close scrutiny at each stage of development. Experience from this effort will give us directions for the future.

Each committee selected for implementation in 1978 will develop through predetermined stages, evolving gradually toward full authority over local children's

services. A minimum beginning function would involve a carrying out, with provincial government assistance, of an examination of the local community's strengths, weaknesses and resources for meeting the special needs of children. It is likely that the committee would also begin coordinating and in some cases funding services for the hard-to-serve child. This would provide additional assistance for the child, but would also assist the committee in developing a knowledge of children's needs and services in a more direct way.

The next stage would involve increasing preoccupation with the system, encouraging coordination, developing local priorities within provincial guidelines and standards, advising the Children's Services Division regarding program budgeting within its boundaries and preparing for full acquisition of responsibility. The final phase could only be reached when both provincial and local development were sufficiently advanced permitting effective control over the system, particularly at such key points as access to residential care, and when provincial-municipal funding arrangements were established. This would involve formal transfer of delivery responsibility to the committee and funding to local government. Through each of the stages the committee would acquire increased competence and legitimacy in the eyes of the public, and become clearly identified as the responsible body for children's services. The provincial government cannot fully hand over responsibility to a body or committee which is not itself accountable ultimately to the people.

In addition to this paper's general purpose in stimulating discussion, it is our hope that it will also serve as a guide for those wishing to submit proposals for children's services committees. It develops the provincial government's requirements for such proposals and outlines established policy for children's services. For added clarity and emphasis I will summarize these here as follows:

1. **Simplicity of structure:** A children's services committee structure should be understandable to the public at large and should minimize bureaucratic build-up. Excessive spending on administration must be avoided.
2. **Participation:** Heretofore services have developed with the support and guidance of community and professional groups as well as government. A committee structure should ensure adequate participation of consumers, deliverers and elected officials.
3. **Areas:** Boundaries of authority of a committee must coincide with relevant local political jurisdiction (regional government, county, municipality, or district).
4. **Flexibility:** Institutions tend to become rigid and self serving over time. The committee structure and function should attempt to take this into account by protecting capacity for change.

5. **Membership:** Proposals for children's services committees must deal with terms of office and means of selection of members.
6. **Accountability:** Proposals must describe clean lines of accountability to local government, as well as responsibility to the provincial government.
7. **Process:** Proposals must take the requirements of consumers, service deliverers and local government into account and ideally should be the product of collaboration of these constituencies.
8. **Provincial Policy:** Proposals should take into account principles of service as articulated from time to time by the Children's Services Division, as well as provincial intentions to control general distribution of services through specific funding arrangements.

Within the context of these guidelines (more fully developed in the paper) local communities can design services reflecting local conditions found in their respective areas.

We will respond to proposals, in some cases by suggesting closer attention to one or another requirement which seems treated insufficiently, and in other cases by raising further questions. Ultimately the decision for selection will be made by applying various criteria such as the desirability of geographical, political and model variation among the committees first established, the likelihood of success, given local history and attitudes, and of course the intrinsic merits of the proposal as finally shaped through dialogue between those involved locally and the provincial government.

I encourage all those concerned with improving the care of children with special needs and their families in this province, to carefully read this paper, reflect upon the issues, and participate fully in the consultation process now beginning.

Models Task Force Report

A Models Task Force was formed shortly after the Children's Services Division was formed. Their report outlines how task force members conjectured that services would be delivered once models of local children's services committees were in place.

Photocopies of the **Models Task Force Report** will be available shortly to groups preparing developmental models based on the present Consultation Paper. Because photocopies are limited we can only provide a single copy per group. Requests should be directed to the Consultation Task Force.

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Consultation Update

Consultation Paper on Short-term Legislative Amendments

On December 16, 1977, the Children's Services Division released its first paper for public consultation. The paper suggests amendments to existing legislation, including *The Child Welfare Act*, *The Children's Boarding Homes Act*, *The Children's Institutions Act*, *The Provincial Courts Act*, *The Training Schools Act*, *The Day Nurseries Act* and *The Children's Mental Health Centres Act*. Short-term in nature, the proposals deal with matters of immediate concern to children and their families, but also reflect the long-term objectives of the Division.

Requests for the paper have been considerable and have necessitated a second printing. By February 17th, 45 briefs had been submitted by professional associations, services providers and concerned individuals.

Many of those intending to make submissions have been concerned about the amount of time provided for feedback. Although we acknowledge this as valid, the Division is facing a very real time pressure in order to have the opportunity to review the responses and hopefully to have legislation ready for introduction in the spring session.

Responses to the paper itself have been both critical and supportive, and have related to policy issues as well as the wording of the proposed amendments. Some of the more common and controversial issues raised are summarized in the following paragraphs.

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■ **Notice to Parents Before Adoption Placement:** A number of concerns have been expressed about the possible disruption to the adoption process involved in the proposal regarding notice to parents. The concerns have related to the problems involved in potential delay at the time of prospective placement of the child, the difficulty of resurrecting the issue with parents no longer involved with the child, and the practical problems of serving the notice. Those expressing these reservations should remember that, at the present time, parents do have the right to apply for termination up to a date even later than that suggested in the proposals. The change is one which simply would give them notice of the time when the right to apply would terminate. Some of the alternative proposals being considered would eliminate the requirement of notice, entitle the parent to waive the requirement of notice, or require a notice only if the child has not been placed for adoption after a period of two years following the Court Order.

■ **Media Access:** There has been concern, particularly in less populated areas, that the proposed restrictions on publication would not be sufficient to prevent disclosure of the persons involved in protection hearings.

■ **Appointment of Lawyer:** Several briefs have commented on whether or not a lawyer can represent a child adequately. Others have suggested that a child's right of access to a lawyer should be extended, rather than left to judicial discretion.

■ **Children's Rights:** There has been both positive and negative feedback regarding the right of children aged 12 and over to intervene in the child protection process, to be part of a placement by way of agreement, etc. The concerns raised relate to whether this is too low an age at which to vest this right in children, and many have expressed reservations regarding the capacity of children, particularly those who are handicapped in some way, to be involved without some outside assistance.

■ **Definition of Abuse for Reporting Purposes:** The general response has been that the proposed definition of abuse for reporting purposes ought to be broadened. Some respondents have worried that the definition is too imprecise in its present form and requires interpretation of vague words, such as serious.

■ **Rehearing Prior to Return to Training School:** A number of respondents have expressed the view that a judicial hearing before a child is returned to training school is not necessary. Others have endorsed this as a protection which should be provided when this decision is being made.

■ **Grievance Procedure:** We have received comments that the grievance procedure would result in outside persons resolving matters which ought to be resolved within the program. It is hoped that this will be clarified once more specific guidelines have been developed.

■ **Funding Discretion:** Concern has been expressed around the possibility of a decision to fund or not to fund a service based upon need. This is part of a more general feeling about possible external control over access to programs, such as those within the children's mental health field. Also, it is related to the fact that *The Children's Residential Services Act* merely establishes a framework for standards and funding development, which needs to be fleshed out in future consultation papers.

■ **Access to Records:** There has been strong reaction to the proposal that parents, children's lawyers and, in restricted cases, children themselves would have access to records kept in residential programs. The primary concerns are that this might produce two sets of records, that it might expose staff and treatment personnel to possible libel suits, and that it might prevent the recording of relevant information about a child and his or her family. Some have seen a need to keep records of a child separate from those of the family. Others have suggested that the principle is a good one, but that a more restricted definition of what constitutes the file should be developed.

■ **Mail Censorship:** A number of persons, particularly those within training schools, have been concerned about the possibility of not being able to censor mail. Others have supported the recommendation.

Local Children's Services Committees: Planning for the Future

A second consultation paper was released January 6, 1978. The paper summarizes the reasons for the Government's decision to reorganize children's services at the provincial and local levels, and offers guidelines for groups interested in submitting proposals to the Division to establish developmental models of local committees in 1978 in their areas.

General response to the paper thus far has been quite positive, indicating that the guidelines set out give ample direction for community discussion while allowing for variation in model design depending on such things as geography, population density and previous experience in service coordination. An Advisory Task Force will continue to assist the Division in reviewing proposals, but will not be responsible for final selection. Prior to January 6, 1978, approximately 15 preliminary proposals were received, but it is expected that these will be reformed and modified in view of the contents of the Consultation Paper. Information has been received that a large number of communities will be responding by forwarding submissions jointly prepared and approved by local municipal councils, service providers and other groups.

The Continuing Process

The Consultation Task Force is continuing to distribute copies of both papers on request. All briefs are being circulated to appropriate task force members and face sheets to senior staff of the Division. Over the past two months, senior staff have visited 18 communities and met with over 30 groups across the province to discuss the papers as well as other concerns. Community Liaison Groups have also been assisting groups and persons in their areas in contacting others wishing to make specific proposals.

Information Systems Development for Children's Services

The Division's third consultation paper is being prepared for release in the near future.

The paper proposes an approach for the development of systems which gather, store, analyze and distribute operational information for use by managers in making decisions and carrying out program functions within the Children's Services Division.

Based on three considerations—the probable organization structure of the Division, its information requirements, and experiences in the Ontario Government and other jurisdictions—the paper sets forth specific design criteria which should be satisfied by any approach to information systems development for children's services. In attempting to meet these criteria, the proposed approach recognizes the need to minimize the possibility of unauthorized access to and abuse of confidential client information. Further, it offers a modular design, as opposed to a total system design, which will respond to the immediate needs of the changing organization. However, the advantages of using common data files are considered in some instances in order to reduce the cost of data collection and storage, to simplify input controls and file protection, and to facilitate modifications to data collection procedures.

The paper also presents a list of priorities for systems development. Throughout this process, the Automated Information Systems Task Force will play an important role. Members will be involved in approving the conceptual approach. They will ensure that the designs proposed for the modules meet the needs of their agencies' systems, that they can be implemented without major disruption, and that they are communicated to the field.

Members will also be involved in arranging appropriate testing environments for the new modules, approving the modules for implementation, and coordinating implementation in their respective agency types. Throughout, they will report on operating problems and recommend any necessary changes.

Finally, frank, two-way consultation with operational personnel in the field is recognized as being critical to the successful development and implementation of the system. The paper's release in the next few weeks will open the door for continuing consultation in this area. A special edition of the *Children's Services Newsletter* will be issued at that time, giving you further details of the content and telling you how you may obtain copies.

Child Abuse Program: Progress Report

by Dr. Herbert A. Sohn, D.S.W.
Coordinator, Child Abuse Program

over the past ten months, the Child Abuse Program has continued to stimulate and support local efforts to prevent, identify and provide services related to child abuse. Relevant ministries have sent representatives to participate in the Interministerial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and those representatives have been most helpful in encouraging support from their own constituency groups. At the same time, we have sought to provide central resources for public education and professional staff training.

Demonstration Projects

In the past year, the Child Abuse Program has been developing three new types of demonstration projects in addition to the seven projects developed in the previous year. The latter are now in operation in Ottawa, Kingston, Metro Toronto, Waterloo and London, and are aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of innovative techniques in the prevention, detection and treatment of child abuse. The new project areas include:

- in-service, interprofessional training;
- rural community service development; and
- prevention.

The purpose of the training project is twofold. First, it is intended to test and identify methods of improving the Ministry's in-service training package. Secondly, we are monitoring its usefulness in improving the knowledge and methodology of practitioners, as well as its ability to promote interagency collaboration. A workshop for local trainers was held during the week of October 17th, 1977, and inter- professional local training programs have been offered in 18 communities throughout the fall and winter months. In some places, the basic curriculum has already been adopted for use in educational institutions and in-service training programs.

We have consulted with various local representatives in developing projects to test methods of providing services in rural communities. To date, meetings have been held with representatives from Perth, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Kenora, Kirkland Lake, Goderich, Pembroke, Guelph and Plantagenet.

As part of our ongoing work to prevent child abuse, we have consulted with professionals in the fields of health, social work, education and law to develop methods for identifying high risk parents and to provide counselling and other support services. Pilot projects have been set up at Toronto East General Hospital and the University of Western Ontario. Also, we have met with a number of representatives from other agencies which are interested in testing our methods.

Regional Seminars

The regional interprofessional seminar continues to be a major means of bringing together representatives from the various disciplines and agencies within a community. Thirty local seminars, dealing with child abuse, have been held during the past 20 months. The subsequent development of locally-based planning groups has been a frequent result of these seminars.

Public Education

We have developed a public education campaign to promote positive parenting. The campaign has

included interviews and public appearances by local specialists, the preparation of public service announcements and brochures, and the establishment of panels of local experts to consult with community groups and the media.

Resources

Members of the Interministerial Committee on Child Abuse and other experts from relevant disciplines have been screening films and publications for addition to our lending libraries. The University of Toronto is producing a series of films on child abuse for the Ministry to be used in professional training. We have also begun the task of translating basic resource material into French.

In May of 1977, a questionnaire was distributed throughout Ontario to obtain details about local plans and programs related to child abuse. A summary as well as a detailed listing of results have been prepared for general distribution.

Federal-Provincial Consultation

The Honourable Keith Norton and the Honourable Monique Bégin have agreed to jointly sponsor a three-day consultation meeting in Toronto in April, 1978. The purpose of this meeting is to have the provinces, territories and federal government share information about child abuse and neglect and, where appropriate, develop methods of collaboration in their efforts.

The Day Nurseries Information System: A Prototype for Improved Information Handling

Although officially turned over to the Day Nurseries Branch in December, the Day Nurseries Information System has been under development since mid-1977. The system has been designed by the Management and Financial Services Branch to meet two major information requirements. First, it makes possible the registration of new day nurseries and signals when others are due for license renewals. Secondly, it utilizes the visitation reports, completed by Day Nurseries Consultants, to update the data base. In this way, more general, statistical information—the number of facilities, their geographic distribution, the types of programs offered, the number of staff and their qualifications, and the number of children being served—can be generated.

The on-line terminal is located at 1 St. Clair Avenue West in the Day Nurseries Branch. It is linked to the Queen's Park computer centre where actual processing takes place using System 2000 data base management software. Able to store and retrieve large blocks of data both quickly and inexpensively, it currently services over 55,000 children in 1,300 day nurseries across the province.

Elsie Etchen, Director of the Branch, is enthusiastic about the time saved as a result of the new system. Whereas the processing of licenses was previously a full-time job for at least one staff member, this function has been simplified, allowing time to produce statistical reports and *ad hoc* listings of selected data.

As a prototype, the system is still under development and is subject to periodic review. A number of enhancements are under consideration, such as a booking system to advise on the availability of space in day nurseries, thereby reducing the time spent in finding the proper placement for a child, as well as increasing the likelihood of placement. In addition, the system has the potential to assist the Branch in financial areas, including claims subsidy handling, budgeting and forecasting.

Training School Closures Reflect New Philosophy in Serving Disturbed Children

by Peter Barnes

Executive Director, Management & Analysis

On February 2nd, Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, announced the closure of two training schools. Effective April 1st, Hillcrest (Guelph) will be transferred to the Ministry of Correctional Services and Sprucedale (Hagersville) will be closed. Some of the children from Hillcrest will be transferred to Oakville Reception and Assessment Centre, while others will be placed in appropriate, alternative programs. Children from Sprucedale will be housed in Glendale (Simcoe), formerly an adult training centre under the Ministry of Correctional Services. Further closures will be based on developing and financing alternative community programs and determining viable uses for the closed institutions. This will be accomplished by means of a staged process.

The closures are the result of a recent analysis of youths entering the system through the Oakville Reception and Assessment Centre, and reflect the Division's efforts to provide a full and integrated network of services to children.

Two major considerations emerged during this review. First, our own evaluations and other research indicate that secure settings, such as training schools, are not effective in serving the majority of children currently in the system. At the same time, we recognize that there are children who require secure care because they represent serious dangers to themselves and to others. Last year, only 22.5% of children in training schools fell into this category. Children whose problems are less severe can receive adequate service within their own communities, often while living at home.

A second consideration has been the declining student count over the past two years in particular, resulting in a minimum excess capacity of 335 beds, as well as a projected drop in the number of children who should be placed in secure settings—120 by 1981.

The Division's policy, therefore, is to maintain the minimal number of secure units. The closure of Hillcrest and Sprucedale are a first step in realizing this objective. Wherever possible, we have already begun to move children into the community. In the West and Southwest, areas which will be affected by the present closures, we have increased the capacity of existing group homes operated by the Ministry. In some areas, training school wards have been attending community schools, using local recreation facilities, doing volunteer work and, in the case of older wards, working at part-time jobs.

During the second phase, we expect that further closures will take place, leaving five training schools and Project DARE. This will occur once we have fully explored other uses for the schools and identified alternative employment opportunities for staff. The schools remaining, during this phase, will be able to house all students still in the system. The money saved as a result of closures will be reallocated to develop diversion programs and train support staff to work with children in the community. We hope to place these children in the community as soon as possible, but this will occur only when adequate, alternative programs are in place. Options may include:

- development and implementation of diversion programs
- development of crisis intervention units for probationers
- increased interaction of Probation and After Care Offices and community agencies on behalf of probationers
- ~~re-emphasis of the function of group homes as alternatives to training schools~~
- more active involvement in prevention programs for children not adjudged delinquent
- implementation of specialized foster parent training
- development of more specialized placement homes
- increased ward/supervising officer interaction
- increased contact and coordination of community services with wards
- development of specialized services within the after care area, such as life skills or family education

By the third phase, we foresee a maximum of three 40-bed secure care facilities. However, community resources would need to be developed fully before this phase could be implemented. Within secure care units, the emphasis will be on higher staff-to-student ratios; within communities, the emphasis will be on programs designed to meet the total needs of individual children. Ultimately, this will mean that people, not facilities, will be our greatest resource.

Individualized Planning for Young People in Metro Toronto

The jointly funded Health/Corrections Project, initiated approximately two years ago, was originally aimed at developing individualized plans for a small number of training school wards for whom no adequate resources could be located. Both partners in the project have set aside special funds and contributed the services of a staff member. Fred Campbell has been seconded from Juvenile Corrections and Susan Gilbert from Central Toronto Youth Services.

The task of the project team is to develop, in conjunction with staff who are already involved, a specific plan for each youngster utilizing existing services. When services are inadequate to meet the needs of the ward, special resources are developed by means of a contract. The resources, either persons or specialized services, might include one-to-one supervision in a group home or individualized tutoring to enable a ward to cope in a community school system. In all cases, the emphasis is placed on bringing these resources to the ward, rather than moving the youngster to a new placement for specialized services. The use of a contracting approach combines flexibility with accountability and allows for evaluation in terms of both cost and effectiveness.

In January, 1978, the project was expanded to include probationers from Metro Toronto who require exceptional services. The Metro Toronto Children's Aid Society, the Catholic Children's Aid Society, Central Toronto Youth Services and Corrections are currently discussing a further expansion of the project which will involve a broader source of referrals and mutual participation in provision of service, administration, funding and research.

Operational Review of Observation and Detention Homes

In November, 1977, the Division's Standards and Information Systems Group completed Part I of its operational review of Observation and Detention Homes. The report, entitled Where We Are, describes and analyzes the existing state of Observation and Detention Homes in Ontario with a view to identifying major problem areas and laying the foundations for further study.

The information presented indicates the need for major changes in each of the areas examined if the program is to be an effective part of the total child service delivery system. In particular, the absence of overall purpose and direction has resulted in service gaps and deficiencies throughout the operations of the homes in the areas of programming, staffing, procedures, physical plant, administration and funding.

Part II, released in December, 1977, makes specific recommendations regarding the major problem areas and suggests target dates for implementing change. In several cases, these recommendations call for further study.

Future Paper Will Propose Model Child Advocacy Program

by Anne Sheffield
Project Manager, Standards Branch

The Children's Services Division is actively committed to guaranteeing certain basic standards of care for children in Ontario's residential care facilities. An important part of the work currently being done in the Standards Branch is in the field of children's rights.

On December 15, 1977, the Minister of Community and Social Services presented to the Legislature the Division's *Consultation Paper on Short-term Legislative Amendments*. The paper includes a chapter dealing exclusively with seven children's rights issues (communication, religion, medical care, access to records, dissociation, use of force and a grievance procedure). This chapter differs from the rest of the Consultation Paper by not making recommendations for specific legislative amendments. Rather, it is for discussion purposes and the Division hopes to receive significant public reaction to its views on these critical issues.

The Standards Branch is now working on a major Child Advocacy/Children's Rights paper. A primary purpose of the paper is to propose ways of implementing children's rights recommendations found in the *Consultation Paper on Short-term Legislative Amendments*. We feel that the varying needs of different program areas may require that the proposed rights, if adopted, be implemented in a different way for each program. At present, for the more secure forms of custodial care, such as training schools and detention homes, we anticipate entrenching the guarantees in legislation or regulations. Less formal means (for example, guidelines and policy directives) could be used for the voluntary forms of residential care.

The advocacy paper will propose a model child advocacy program for initial implementation in one part of the Children's Services delivery system. Either one program or a geographical region of the province will be chosen for the test-run of the proposed model. Our experiences during the testing period will determine the final form in which guarantees of children's rights will be implemented in Ontario.

Work on the Advocacy Paper is being coordinated by Senior Policy Advisor, Michael Ozerkevich. There are three other members of the team: Leslie Langford, who is on the staff of the Observation and Detention Homes Branch and whose previous experience includes developing the advocacy program at Achievement St. Lawrence, the Kingston Detention Home; Ray Lazanik, a new member of the Standards Branch who is an M.S.W. and has most recently worked as a Senior Probation Officer for the Juvenile Corrections Branch; and Anne Sheffield, who is the lawyer on the Standards Branch staff, and who wrote the Children's Rights Chapter of the *Consultation Paper on Short-term Legislative Amendments*.

The team is conducting extensive research into the subject. Liaison has been established with the office of the Ombudsman for Ontario. We will be working with Bob Jarecki, juvenile investigator for the Ombudsman's office.

Michael Ozerkevich and Ray Lazanik have visited Montreal to examine the operation of the Quebec Government's Gohier Committee. The mandate of the Gohier Committee is to keep children out of adult jails; to shorten the length of detention periods; and to ensure appropriate placements for children. This is a highly specialized and successful child advocacy system which is being considered with great interest by the Division. The Quebec system also uses a common intake and screening point for children entering the detention system. This program, called L'Escale, is also being investigated by the advocacy team.

We solicit the views of those members of the Children's Services delivery system interested in the implementation of children's rights principles. If you would like to contribute your opinions and experiences in this field, please contact any member of the advocacy team at 965-4727.

Children's Mental Health Services Branch:

Business as Usual Despite Change in Directorship

Gillian Doherty was appointed Acting Director of the Children's Mental Health Services Branch January 1, 1978. She is replacing former Director, Doug Finlay, who remains with the Division in a senior consultant role.

Dr. Doherty is a clinical psychologist. Prior to entering government service, she worked with mentally retarded youngsters and children with specific learning disabilities, as well as emotionally disturbed children and adolescents. She became a member of the Children's Mental Health Services Branch in 1974 and served as a program consultant until her appointment as Acting Director.

Despite changes in the directorship and plans for eventual decentralization of the Branch, the working relationship between the six Regional Coordinators and the children's mental health centres remains the same. The six Coordinators are:

- Anne Berens - Northern Ontario
- Doug Brown - Central-Western Ontario
- Russ Daniels - Metro Toronto
- Angelo DiFrancesco - Southwestern Ontario
- Beth Hoen - Metro Toronto
- Allen Valliilee - Eastern Ontario.

Jim Hudson continues as financial consultant to the centres and Carol Ashmore as administrative assistant for the Branch. Chris Macartney, a medical records librarian, joined head office staff in January and consults with the centres regarding data collection.

Because of the increased demands imposed by decentralization and general policy review, the Branch has secured the services of Dr. Eric Hood of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry as a psychiatric consultant. Dr. Hood will be working with the Branch on a half-time, short-term basis. Dr. Naomi Rae-Grant will continue to be available in a senior consultant capacity. In addition, she will be undertaking a project to develop preventive strategies for the Division.

Questionnaire Will Lead to New Residential Services Directory

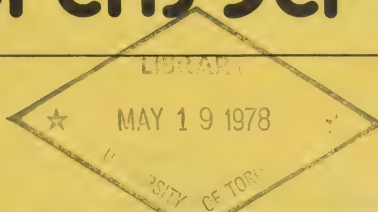
Within the next few weeks, a questionnaire on residential services will be sent to some 700 facilities throughout the province. The 82-page questionnaire was developed by the Division's Standards and Information System Group through a consultation process begun in July, 1977, and is designed to provide the information base for overall planning as well as standards development. In addition, it will be used to publish a residential services directory to serve as an aid to placement. All facilities responding will receive automatically a copy of the directory and will have access to the aggregate information generated from the questionnaire.



Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services



Special Edition
May, 1978

We are issuing a special edition of the *Children's Services Newsletter* to inform you that the Division's third consultation paper, entitled *Information Systems Development for Children's Services in Ontario*, has been released. A limited number of copies are available from:

- your local community liaison group (see attached list)
- the Consultation Task Force, LuCliff Place, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto M7A 1E9 (416-965-1891).

Face sheets will be supplied along with your copy to accompany your response to the Division. All written responses will be made available to senior staff, task force members, community liaison groups, and other interested groups and individuals unless otherwise requested.

This paper has been prepared as a framework for discussion of information systems development in the Children's Services Delivery System, and is intended for critical examination by field personnel. The following summary will acquaint you with the paper's contents and, we hope, help you determine whether or not you wish to obtain a copy.

Information Systems Development for Children's Services in Ontario

The Division's third green paper, prepared by the Information Systems Task Force, proposes an approach to information systems development for the Children's Services Delivery System (CSDS).

The approach proposed is based on satisfying the following criteria. An effective and efficient system should:

1. be flexible and responsive to changes in the existing organization and operations;
2. support the management function at three levels: prevention, case and resource management;
3. provide necessary information over the period of organizational change and development;
4. incorporate, to the extent possible, systems already developed in Ontario and other jurisdictions;
5. avoid the weaknesses and incorporate the strengths of systems design in other jurisdictions;
6. minimize and keep confidential and private, records that link clinical information with individuals;
7. provide for the design of systems that can be implemented locally by local staff;
8. emphasize dialogue and consultation during the development phase;
9. give priority to achieving results in short time frames at the possible expense of systems sophistication;
10. support and reinforce the basic principles of service delivery.

These criteria were developed from an understanding of the philosophy, goals and mandate of the CSDS, its structure and probable implementation sequence, as well as the information required to support it, including experience in Ontario and other jurisdictions.

Organizational Components

In its final form, the CSDS is expected to have four major organizational components, each with distinct roles:

- **Local Committees:** To coordinate all local service organizations within a designated region.
- **Local Service Organizations:** To provide both residential and non-residential children's services to the community.
- **Provincial Service Organizations:** To provide residential services of a highly specialized nature for the whole province.
- **Provincial Government:** To ensure integrated, balanced and comprehensive services to children with special needs throughout the province by approving services, establishing standards for staffing, facilities and quality of care, approving budgets, monitoring performance and conducting audits.

Within these general roles, each component of the CSDS will have a number of specific responsibilities which we have grouped into three management categories:

- **Prevention Management:** Responsibilities related to reducing the numbers of children with special needs.
- **Case Management:** Responsibilities related to the protection, management, treatment and general welfare of children requiring service.
- **Resource Management:** Responsibilities related to ensuring that the services necessary for the care and treatment of children are appropriate to need, accessible to all children, meet provincial standards of care, and are delivered in an effective and efficient manner.

These roles and responsibilities establish two basic working relationships between the components of the CSDS: funding/accountability relationships and service delivery relationships.

Funding/accountability relationships should ensure that public funds budgeted for children's services are expended for approved services within approved standards, and that they are identified, where possible, with observable results. Beyond this, the relationship should provide full financial accountability by type of expenditure for all funds expended.

Service delivery relationships between the many service organizations and agencies are important for the maintenance of integrated, comprehensive services for children with special needs. The development of good communication and close collaboration between organizations is fundamental to the maintenance of a high level of service and care throughout the delivery system.

Implementation Considerations

While a more detailed description of the CSDS will not be available until after the consultation process, it is apparent that implementation of the changes will have some important implications for information systems development.

Before plans can be developed for rationalization, definitions and standards need to be established. This will be difficult because of the large number of residential and non-residential services. However, until this is accomplished, operational data may not be available. This operational information is expected to point out significant variations in local needs, problems and services which must be considered in the plans for rationalization. Superimposed on this organizational problem will be the task of working out cost sharing arrangements with federal, provincial and municipal authorities which are consistent with the plan of organization.

Also, plans for the formation and effective operation of local committees must be considered. Since the concept is experimental, a period of operation will be required before any useful conclusions can be drawn. Following this, time will be required for adoption and implementation of one or more successful models throughout the province.

While considering these complexities, it would seem appropriate to assume that the development of the CSDS will take place in three phases:

1. *Analysis, Definition and Planning:* The responsibilities during this phase relate to the analysis of the existing delivery system, definition of the reorganized CSDS, and planning for its implementation.
2. *Implementing the CSDS:* With the volume of cases and the number of facilities and service organizations involved in the CSDS, the implementation of changes leading to rationalization and decentralization will be complex and relatively slow. Those involved will need to know the status of implementation throughout the province and to be able to monitor the performance of experimental committees.
3. *Operating the CSDS:* In this phase, information is needed to assist those individuals and organizations involved in prevention, case and resource management in carrying out their responsibilities.

Information Requirements

The information which is needed to plan and manage the new CSDS likely will be provided in a number of ways. Some information will come from policies, procedures and directives; and other information, from systems designed specifically for this purpose. As a start, the paper briefly reviews related, existing systems in Ontario and comments on their potential value to the CSDS. It also identifies children's services systems of particular note in other jurisdictions.

A Proposed Approach

Any proposed approach to information systems development should be tested against the criteria outlined earlier. In addition, the paper suggests twelve related principles to guide service organizations in planning automated systems. While it is premature to describe, in any detail, the features of future information systems in the CSDS, it is possible to develop a general framework or approach to systems development based on these criteria and principles within which individual projects may be identified and implemented.

Three basic design features are proposed relating to the confidentiality of personal records, modular systems design and the use of common data files.

Recognizing the probable stages of development of the new organization over the next two to three years, the priorities guiding the development of information systems are expected to be as follows:

1. Get the existing CSDS under control.
2. Plan the rationalization of services and facilities.
3. Control implementation of changes.
4. Introduce further changes and refinements.

The Consultation Process

In keeping with the criterion for a high level of communication in any proposed approach, it is envisaged that members of the Information Systems Task Force will play an important role in systems development. While the current members of the Task Force represent various types of agencies, the membership will be examined to ensure that all major interest groups are represented.

The role of the Task Force is expected to include: agreeing on a conceptual approach to systems development; reviewing community response to the conceptual approach; ensuring that the systems designs being proposed meet the needs of their agency types; arranging appropriate testing environments for the systems modules; recommending modules for implementation; coordinating implementation in their agency types; and reporting on problems with the modules in operation and recommending changes.

Open and frank communication between the Task Force and operational personnel in the field has been recognized as a critical requirement. This paper has been prepared with this in mind and is intended for your careful examination.

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Consultation Update

The Children's Services Division is presently reviewing proposals received from Ontario's communities for the establishment of local children's services committees. As announced in the consultation paper, *Local Children's Services Committees: Planning for the Future*, approximately four developmental models will be implemented in 1978 within the context of the guidelines contained in the consultation document. Proposals have been received from all areas of the province. The Honourable Keith Norton noted in his comments to the Provincial Municipal Liaison Committee meeting on March 10, 1978: "We are most encouraged by the positive steps taken by many communities—the collaboration between municipal officials and service providers and community representatives is most heartening."

At the same meeting, Mr. Norton went on to say: "As we approach the time at which we select a few developmental models to be implemented in 1978, it should be made clear that in the first stages of the effort responsibilities for the funding of children's services will not be transferred to the local committee. Each stage of implementation requires careful examination and evaluation. There must be adequate time and resources devoted to ensuring that government and community leaders, program managers, service providers, consumers and the general public all come to an understanding of the process and their respective roles and responsibilities within it."

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It is expected that models selected for 1978 will represent a variety of local jurisdictions: regional governments, counties, districts and municipalities. Following examination of the proposals and consultation with the Advisory Task Force on Local Children's Services Committees, the Division will jointly determine with the selected communities the specific terms of reference for the 1978-1979 period. The Minister will then announce the selected committees, along with their goals and activities.

The Division recognizes that a continued flow of information about the progress of the committees is essential to assist other communities to prepare for coordination after 1978. This information will continue to be supplied through the newsletter, the Community Liaison Groups and the Consultation Task Force.

Ministry Reorganization's Effect on Children's Services

The appointment of four Area Planning Co-ordinators for Children's Services was announced by Keith Norton, the Minister of Community and Social Services on April 14, 1978.

This is the first phase in a larger Ministry re-organization and decentralization. The second phase will be marked by the appointment of four Regional Directors, Children's Services, and four Regional Directors, Adult Services, by October, 1978.

The Area Planning Co-ordinators are:

Dr. Ken Beck—former Director (South and West) of the regional Juvenile Corrections Program.

Dr. Gillian Doherty—former Acting Director of the Children's Mental Health Services Branch.

Valerie Gibbons—former Area Administrator with the Juvenile Corrections Program.

Ken Macdonald—former Director of the Child Welfare Branch.

During the interim period of re-organization in the Ministry, the Child Welfare Branch will function without a permanent Director, being operated instead by a management team. Barry Dalby, former Director of the Ministry's Management and Financial Services Branch will be designated as Director under the legislation. He will be responsible for the financial management of the Branch. Terry O'Brien, who is being seconded three days a week from his present position as Executive Director of the Family and Children's Services of London and Middlesex, will be Director of Programs.

Mr. Alan Leslie takes over as Director of the Children's Mental Health Services Branch. Formerly he was Director of Co-ordination and Implementation in the Children's Services Division. He will remain in his new position until such time as the regional re-organization takes place and the Branch responsibilities are then transferred. Dr. Eric Hood will be Psychiatric Program Consultant to the Branch three days a week. The other days he will spend working at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry.

Program Priorities for Children's Services in 1978

Prepared by Malcolm Shookner of the Division's Program Development and Research group, *Program Priorities for Children's Services in 1978* represents a step in a long-range plan to provide a complete and balanced spectrum of services to children in Ontario. The priorities described in the paper are consistent with the Division's basic principles of service delivery (see August newsletter) as well as our policy to provide increased support to the family unit and thereby reduce the need for alternative, substitute care.

There are three dimensions to our priorities for 1978: regional needs, program content and special groups.

Regional Needs

Because services were planned and developed by four ministries prior to the formation of the Division, their current distribution does not ensure access for all children in the province. This situation is most evident in Northern Ontario. *As a result, we have identified the North as our highest regional Priority for program development in 1978.* (See article on Northern Priorities in this newsletter.) Disparities in the distribution of programs in other parts of the province are not identified as easily. A consistent planning process is being devised in preparation for the decentralization of the Division into several regions during 1978. Its purpose is to develop a balanced spectrum of service for every region.

Program Content

We have identified four program areas of high priority for the current fiscal year.

Prevention is our first priority. We intend to start focussing our resources toward providing programs which will help children and families in high risk situations, and reduce the demand for specialized and expensive services, such as residential treatment programs and training schools. Because our resources are limited, we will shift some money out of institutional programs. Where we lack sufficient knowledge and means, resources will be allocated for research and development, keeping in mind both the urgency of the present situation and the likelihood of meaningful results.

The Division's policy and principles favour support to children in their homes and communities over substitute arrangements. *Our second priority is to promote the development of programs to help children considered to be "out of control" to function in their home environments.* Institutional programs, such as training schools, will be reduced. The use of these facilities will be controlled by selective criteria geared to the child who needs a closed, structured environment. At the same time, alternative programs will be developed for children in their own homes and communities to offer a flexible range of services which provide varying degrees of control and which can be tailored to the needs of individual children.

Programs which provide intervention and support to families in crisis are our third priority. An improved capacity to provide these services in the context of the child welfare, children's mental health and juvenile justice systems may prevent the later development of more serious problems. We may then begin gradually to reduce the number of children who are placed in a variety of residential programs which provide substitute care, such as group homes, treatment centres and training schools.

Our fourth priority concerns treatment programs which attempt to assist children and families in dealing with emotional and behavioural disturbances. The Division has a major investment in treatment programs through its Children's Mental Health Services Branch. Already, children's mental health centres have developed a range of treatment which includes home care, as well as out-patient, day and residential treatment programs. We will continue to support these programs in 1978 and to encourage the further development of a range of non-residential forms of treatment.

Special Groups

Two cultural groups—*Franco-Ontarians* and *native people*—have been identified as target populations of high priority because of their special needs for children's services as well as their special status in Ontario.

New strategies are being devised to identify and provide needed services in communities where there are substantial French-speaking populations. (See article on "Francophone Services to Children and Families" in this newsletter.) Information about needs and available resources is being collected. From this information, a special team will prepare a detailed strategy for the development of services to Franco-Ontarians and a plan for allocating the money in this year's budget.

Frequently, care for native children has meant removal from both family and community, which can contribute to cultural disorientation and loss of identity. Because the Division is committed to family and community support, and because this focus is particularly critical in native communities—whether urban or rural—any efforts to alleviate these problems must be based on a cooperative effort involving native people themselves. Since the federal government has constitutional responsibilities toward native people on reserves, collaboration among all levels of government will be essential. We will also support the efforts of native organizations providing services to native children and their families in urban communities. At the same time, we will encourage other agencies to engage in similar cooperative efforts.

Planning for 1979

In summary, this paper takes us about as far as we feel we can go towards establishing program priorities for the 1978/79 fiscal year. In disclosing its approach, the Division invites discussion and comment which will be considered carefully as planning for 1979/80 begins. We hope that those interested will use the form provided in the paper to respond.

A short summary has been prepared and copies of the summary or the paper may be obtained by contacting the Ministry of Community and Social Services District Offices.

Northern Priorities

The Division has identified the North as its highest regional priority for program development in 1978, and plans to increase spending in this area by at least \$3 million for the period April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979. (For our purposes, the North extends south to include the Districts of Parry Sound and Nipissing).

A special team, headed by Val Gibbons, Area Planning Coordinator is gathering information about the resources available to children in the North, assessing needs and identifying gaps in service. The team has travelled to the major cities in the nine northern districts of the Ministry to involve as many people as possible who are concerned about children's services. The result has been the identification of major gaps in the spectrum of services presently offered, and priorities which require special attention.

The team's recommendations are not necessarily compatible with the province-wide priorities described in the paper, *Program Priorities for Children's Services in 1978*. For example, there is a glaring need for facilities which provide custody for children whose behaviour is considered to be out of control, and which offer flexibility in the services they provide as units, such as detention, short-term crisis management and assessment.

Specifically, the team is proposing local development of services throughout the North with regional facilities, to provide specialized back-up services, at the Sudbury-Algomaa Sanatorium and the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. Also, they are proposing the development of prevention and diversion programs, as well as volunteer recruitment, staff training, family support and other special projects.

In recognition of the significant population of both native and French-speaking people in the North, the development of programs will include a special emphasis on the language and cultural requirements needed to serve them adequately.

Although the team supports the need for additional human resourcing, there is a need to broaden the allocation beyond the ranks of the case-carrying worker to encourage the development of prevention, diversion, volunteer, staff training, family support and other kinds of special projects. It is recommended, therefore, that money be allocated for special project workers and prevention programs. Districts, then, would be asked to submit proposals for funding of programs in this regard.

The next step in the process of northern development is to return to each District with a statement about the money available for development and consultation around the most appropriate resources to meet their needs.

The Division's statement on program priorities for the North can be obtained from: Ms. Val Gibbons, Area Planning Coordinator, Children's Services Division, 9th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 1E9.

Services to Francophone Children and Families

The Division is attempting to develop a complete and balanced spectrum of services for all children ranging from nourishment through treatment to restraint. As part of this endeavour, research is being conducted to identify the service needs of francophone children and families. In order to gather this information, an inventory is being made

of the services which already exist to meet these needs. In addition, discussions are being held with service providers and francophone groups. Once the Division is knowledgeable about both existing services and service gaps, it can develop strategies to fill these gaps. Based on this research, a detailed policy paper presenting specific program recommendations by area will be prepared. Some of the questions to be addressed in this paper are:

- What concentration of French-speaking people in a community necessitates the provision of French services?
- How can the capabilities of existing agencies to serve the francophone population be improved?
- How can services be planned and delivered so as to recognize the unique cultural characteristics of francophones?
- How can French-speaking staff be attracted to service agencies in Ontario?
- What form of financial recognition should be given to an agency which provides services to two language groups?

Thistletown Role Study

A study is being undertaken to review the role of Thistletown Regional Centre in the context of the policies of the Children's Services Division and the needs of children in greater Metro Toronto.

Prior to the formation of the Division, Thistletown was a regional centre under the Ministry of Health. As such, it was responsible for regional coordination of children's mental health services in addition to its clinical function. With the transfer of children's services to the Division, the roles of regional centres will be subject to gradual change, based on the shift of responsibility for service coordination to local committees. Because of its size and location, Thistletown has been chosen as a first step in this review process.

The study group will be chaired by Robert Couchman, Executive Director of the Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto. Other members represent the interests of the institution, the community which it services, and those involved in education and research in the children's mental health field.

Standards Development

A consultation paper on standards development is being prepared for release this summer by the Provincial Standards Development Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Division's Standards and Information Systems group. Members of the Advisory Committee include:

Michael Ozerkevich, *Chairman*
Standards & Information Systems

Sabarijah Klein, *Co-Chairman*
Standards & Information Systems

Dr. Gillian Doherty
Area Planning Co-ordinator
Children's Services Division

Mickie Ellis
Early Childhood Education Association

Dr. Karen Gilmour-Barrett
Official Representative
Ontario Association of Children's Mental
Health Centres

Tad Hall
Office of the Fire Marshal
Ministry of the Solicitor General

Dean Hamlyn
Provincial Judge (Family Division)

Janet L'Heureux
Office of the Associate Deputy Minister

Art Pope
Commissioner of Social Services
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton

Susan Pratt
Ontario Association of Child Care Workers

Dr. Quentin Rae-Grant
Dept. of Psychiatry
Hospital for Sick Children

Dr. Jack Santa Barbara
Research & Evaluation Service
Thistletown Regional Centre

Keith Shackleton
Les Hirondelles, Campbellford

Len Wilson
Child Welfare Branch

Edwin Watson
Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society

Penny Mitchell, *Secretary*
Standards & Information Systems.

The Committee will set out requirements for high quality care, access to and continuity of care, as well as measures to ensure consistency in decision-making. These standards are intended to assist deliveries of service in improving the care they provide, and to establish means whereby both the provincial government and service providers may be held accountable for the effectiveness and efficiency with which resources are allocated, administered and used.

In this paper, the Committee proposes specific residential care standards. Future work will concern standards relating to children's rights, casework and casework supervision, day care, foster care, prevention and diversion, information systems and records, program evaluation, and assessment.

Study of Child Welfare Services

A study group, chaired by Doug Barr of Metro Toronto Social Planning Council, will be established shortly to study child welfare services in Ontario. They will prepare a paper which will bring together historical and comparative information and provide a context for informed public discussion of the topic. Specifically, the paper will include:

- a brief history of child welfare, focussing on Ontario;
- a broad review of relevant literature regarding models of structure and accountability relationships;
- an analysis of the variants presently existing in the province;
- an in-depth review and assessment of criticism of children's aid societies;
- a balanced assessment of all options available to decision-makers regarding the future relationships and structure of children's aid societies.

This paper is intended as a reference document for informed public discussion rather than as a means of developing specific policies. It will not include recommendations or proposals for organizational or legislative change. The study group will commence its work on May 1 and complete the task by September 30, 1978.

Newsletter Available in French

The August, November, December and January editions of the *Children's Services Newsletter* have been translated into French and are being distributed to:

- welfare administrators,
- municipal clerks,
- school boards with French classes,
- district health councils,
- regional medical offices of health,
- the French media, and
- related groups and individuals.

All groups have already received the corresponding English editions.

Future editions of the newsletter will continue to appear in French subsequent to the release of the English edition. Anyone who wishes to receive French edition newsletters should contact the Consultation Task Force, LuCliff Place, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto M7A 1E9 (phone: 416-965-1891). *The Consultation Paper on Local Children's Services Committees* is also available in a French edition and may be requested at the same address.

Task Force on Case Information Disclosure

Over the past six months, it has become increasingly evident that the articulation of policy regarding the disclosure of case information is a matter of considerable urgency. The development of automated information systems as well as the consolidation of programs within the Division heighten the need to explore the many aspects of confidentiality.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Gillian Doherty, an interministerial group was looking at this and related issues prior to the Division's existence. Members of that group and some additional persons have formed the Task Force on Case Information Disclosure which will begin work in April to assist the Division in developing policy in this area.

Mr. Roger Meskis, Executive Director of Lynwood Hall, a children's mental health centre in Hamilton, has agreed to chair the Task Force.

Though no formal terms of reference have been established as yet, the following items might form the nucleus of the agenda for the project:

- What are the conditions or situations in which the law requires disclosure of information from client records?
- What are the conditions or situations in which the law permits disclosure and what duties or obligations are involved?
- Regarding consent to release information, what is the evidence that consent is voluntary? Who may consent on behalf of a child? When is a minor old enough to consent? Must consent contain the reason for which the information is required and how specific does this need to be? Case files often contain family information, must all members consent? Should consent forms contain expiry dates?
- What information is disclosed?
- What guidelines are available and what guidelines are needed in urgent situations when there is little time to get consent or where consent is refused but disclosure appears necessary to safeguard safety?
- What requirements ought to pertain for verbal disclosures such as telephone conversations and conferences?
- What conditions and requirements ought to govern disclosure to children, their parents or their representatives?
- What issues arise out of the use of automated information systems? What safeguards and guidelines are needed? Are tracking systems and confidentiality compatible? Again, what guidelines are needed?

No doubt other issues will occur to the Task Force during its deliberations in this very difficult area where civil liberties and the protection of the safety of individuals appear so often to conflict.

Task Force on Children's Aid Societies Funding Issues

The Joint Provincial/O.A.C.A.S. Task Force on Funding Issues is now underway. The task force will identify current problems in the allocation of funds, and will attempt to develop an improved method of determining the distribution of available funding to societies.

At the same time, the Standards and Information Systems Group in the Children's Services Division has been preparing a conceptual approach to the funding of all children's services that is based on the principles of units of service and functional budgeting. They hope to develop an

approach to funding that could be applied uniformly across the Division. The potential impact of such an approach is now being studied and a Consultation paper on it will be published in August.

However, it is estimated that it will be at least a year before any broad new funding method could be implemented in its entirety. That is why it is necessary to consider as a separate exercise the issues in C.A.S. funding that need to be addressed in the short term. The task force has set as its immediate objective the preparation of a recommendation for the 1979 expenditure estimates. September 15, 1978 is the target date for the completion of the task.

The members of the task force are:

Mr. B. Dalby,
Director of Child Welfare

Mr. T. O'Brien,
Director of Programs, Child Welfare Branch

Mr. J. L. MacGregor,
Local Director, The Family and Children's Services
of the County of Haldimand

Mr. G. McLellan,
Executive Director, Community Liaison and Child Welfare

Mr. R. N. McQuarrie,
President, Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies

Mr. J. A. Mesner,
Local Director, Children's Aid Society of Ottawa

Mr. M. Ozerkevich,
Senior Policy Advisor, Children's Services Division,
(Chairman of the task force)

The Project Manager is Mr. W. J. Henry of Boston, Gilbert, Henry Associates. The task force hopes to receive input from individual societies on issues related to funding which concern them.

Project will lead to the Development of Prevention Strategies for the CSD

Dr. Naomi Rae-Grant, under the aegis of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Western Ontario, has undertaken a project to develop prevention strategies applicable within the Children's Services Division. First, Dr. Rae-Grant will synthesize literature on the subject—what is known; what theories may bear fruit; what theories may be tested. The resulting paper will prioritize the various strategies identified for future use in policy planning. Secondly, Dr. Rae-Grant will consult with recognized experts in the field, leading to a workshop to be held at the University of Western Ontario this summer. Here, participants will discuss the paper and assist Dr. Rae-Grant in developing approaches for enhancing existing knowledge in the field of prevention.

Day Nurseries Manual –
Children With Special Needs

The second draft of a policy manual on day nurseries programs for children with special needs has been prepared by the Day Nurseries Branch. The manual is available for study and comment, and may be obtained from community liaison groups. Responses are invited and should be addressed to: Mr. Gordon McLellan, Consultation Task Force, 12th floor, 700 Bay St., Toronto. The Division hopes to be able to implement guidelines by the Fall of 1978.

Law Development

The 200 briefs submitted in response to the *Consultation Paper on Short-term Legislative Amendments* are being reviewed by the Division. We hope to develop short-term legislative proposals for introduction to the Legislature this spring. At the same time, we will prepare a paper indicating the proposed changes for circulation to all those who submitted briefs. These revisions will not amount to a total restructuring of current laws governing children's services in Ontario. Rather, they will provide a basis for improving present legislation as a step toward developing longer term, omnibus legislation.

The Division is also working on a position paper to respond to the proposed federal *Young Offenders Act*. The paper will set out the alternatives available to the province and will be released for feedback later this year, well before the *Young Offenders Act* becomes law.

Children's Services Directory

In March, the Division moved to *LuCliff Place, 700 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 1E9*. Exact locations and telephone numbers of CSD staff and offices are given below.

2ND FLOOR

Child Welfare Branch, except where noted 965-0176

- Mr. B. Dalby, Director of Child Welfare
- Mr. T. O'Brien, Director of Programs
- Mr. E. Magder, Ass't. Director 5-1718
- Ms. M. Ramsden, Prog. Dev. Specialist 5-0213
- Mrs. V. Leach, Adoption Coordinator 5-2802
- Mrs. R. Powell, Review Unit 5-4881
- Miss A. Lott, Records 5-4895

Training Schools Advisory Board 5-1871
Ward Records 5-4368

9TH FLOOR

- Children's Mental Health Services Branch* 5-8067
 - Mr. A. Leslie, Director
 - Mrs. C. Ashmore, Admin. Ass't.
 - Dr. E. Hood, Consulting Psychiatrist
 - Regional Coordinators
- Child Abuse Program* 5-3130
 - Dr. H. Sohn, Coordinator
 - Miss C. McLean, Program Development
 - Dr. P. Loebel, Program Development
- Area Planning Co-ordinators* 5-3111
 - Dr. K. Beck
 - Dr. G. Doherty
 - Ms. V. Gibbons
 - Mr. K. Macdonald

10TH FLOOR

- Office of the Associate Deputy Minister* 5-4914
 - Judge G. Thomson, Associate Deputy Minister
 - Ms. C. Denov, Executive Ass't.
 - Ms. J. L'Heureux, Executive Ass't.
- Management and Analysis* 5-7683
 - Mr. P. Barnes, Executive Director
 - Ms. V. Bales, Executive Ass't.
 - Mr. J. Packer, Inspector
- Financial and Program Analysis* 5-0210
 - Mr. R. Battista, Manager

11TH FLOOR

- Program Development & Research*, except where noted 5-5339
 - Dr. C. Chamberlain, Executive Director 5-7686
 - Policy Advisors:
 - Ms. P. McKen
 - Mrs. R. Scott
 - Mr. M. Shookner
 - Mr. P. Siemens
 - Mr. W. Tuohy
- Child Care Standards & Systems* 5-4727
 - Mr. M. Ozerkevich, Sr. Policy Advisor
 - Ms. P. Mitchell, Admin. Ass't.
 - Mr. D. Lawton, Manager, Observation & Detention Homes Juvenile
- Project Managers:
 - Mr. J. Anglin
 - Mr. R. Bakker
 - Mr. J. Doherty
 - Mr. L. Kishino
 - Dr. S. Klein
 - Ms. L. Langford
 - Mr. R. Lazanik
 - Mr. D. Millar
 - Ms. A. Sheffield
 - Mr. R. Silverston
 - Ms. K. Wood

12TH FLOOR

- Community Liaison & Child Welfare* 5-7636
 - Mr. G. McLellan, Executive Director
 - Mrs. M. Redgrave, Executive Ass't.
- Consultation Task Force* 5-1891
 - Mr. J. Mucha, Project Officer
- Day Nurseries Branch* 5-5095
 - Mrs. E. Etchen, Director
 - Day Nurseries Consultants
- Juvenile Corrections* 5-1083
 - Mr. B. Glass, Operational Planning
 - Ms. N. Green, Operational Planning



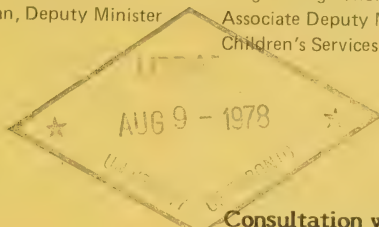
Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division



July, 1978

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Child Abuse Program	4	The Youth Services Network, an information, referral, and coordinating body dealing with youth workers, was hired to carry out the project. It is a non-profit, non-government organization, composed of agencies and individuals working with children.
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Dealing with Hard-To-Place Children	7	Terry Lee, of the Youth Services Network, conducted all the interviews, based on key issues selected from two Consultation Papers, <u>Short Term Legislative Amendments</u> and <u>Local Children's Services Committees</u> . The questionnaire included questions about children's rights, about who makes the decisions as to where a child goes, and who should make the decision, and about what happens to children in Court.
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Four categories of youth were interviewed:

1. non-users - those who had never had any contact with any provincially-funded children's service.
2. new entrants - those who had been in contact with provincial services during the last three months only.
3. long-term users - those who were often residents of services for six months or more.
4. graduates - those who had been in a provincially-funded service for at least one year, and who were leaving or had already left the service.

The staff from thirty-five agencies and organizations in the Metro Toronto region selected the 60 children interviewed. Fifteen came from each of the four groups; the average age was 16.

While the interviews were confidential and no identifying information was recorded, some examples of feelings on certain issues follow:

Isolation - This was generally opposed by all four groups. Some felt it was ineffective, producing only resentment and mistrust. Others felt it was inhuman and demoralizing.

The users who had experienced isolation expressed the feeling that for a short period of time it was effective in calming them down and providing them with an opportunity to review their behaviour. However, the longer they were in isolation, the less effect it had. They suggested shortened time periods for isolation would have greater impact.

Access to files - All respondents felt they had a right to see their files. Non-users felt this was a "basic right". Users were concerned with the accuracy of what was written about them in the files.

Involvement in Decisions - Respondents were almost unanimous in feeling that they were not fully involved in the important decisions that affect them. The long-term users felt the least involved, while non-users felt more involved.

Source of problems - Most respondents felt their families were the root of their problems. Non-users more frequently placed responsibility for getting into trouble on the offender and his or her peers, than on the family. It seemed that users lacked insight, not seeing how their own decision-making in the past contributed to their problems.

Raising the age of children receiving services - Opinion was divided on this issue. Long-term users felt the age should not be raised; throughout the other groups, the responses were almost evenly divided. Those who supported raising the age thought services were needed by sixteen and seventeen-year-olds as much as by younger children.

Terry Lee felt that the length of time a user had been receiving children's services was a factor. The kids who had been in the system a long time did not want the age raised because they did not want to receive services any longer.

Access and availability of service - The one service gap identified most consistently was some form of drop-in centre for teenagers who wanted a place to relax and discuss things with peers, friends, or workers.

Attitude to government - There was a general pessimism and resignation among both users and non-users that the government would never do anything relevant and meaningful for them.

Many of the views expressed supported changes contained in the legislative amendments package. The Division hopes to continue such consultations with the next one, including interviews with children, their families and the workers associated with them.

Terry Lee reports the young people he interviewed appreciated being asked for their opinions on children's services and policies. They felt the consultation process was a valuable way for government to hear what young people felt about existing and proposed services.

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments	226	passed*
Local Children's Services Committees	53	passed**
Information Systems Development	-	August 18

* Legislation package introduced in Legislature June 8.

** It is expected that the Minister will name the first committees shortly.

Children's Services Legislation Introduced

The first changes in child care legislation under the year-old Children's Services Division were introduced by the Hon. Keith Norton on June 8th. They received second reading in the Legislature and have been referred to the Standing Social Policy Committee for discussion in the fall.

Amendments to nine provincial statutes resulted from The Consultation Paper on Short-Term Legislative Amendments, released last December, and the consultation with the child care community which followed.

The Acts to be amended are:

- o The Child Welfare Act
- o The Day Nurseries Act
- o The Children's Boarding Home Act
- o The Children's Mental Hospitals Act
- o The Children's Mental Health Centres Act
- o The Children's Institution Act
- o The Provincial Courts Act
- o The Training Schools Act
- o The Unified Family Court Act

The Ministry received 226 written submissions, from the child care community and held forty meetings with interested groups. The information and suggestions put forward were carefully considered. In many cases, the proposed legislation was changed as a result of consultation.

Some of the proposed major changes in legislation are as follows:

- o Professionals will face a possible penalty of up to \$1,000 for failure to report incidents of known or suspected child abuse.
- o In a court case involving decisions which may affect a child's future, a judge may decide that the child must be represented by legal counsel.
- o The media will be permitted to attend court hearings, subject to restrictions on the publication of information which might identify the people before the Court. Judges will be able to exclude the media where emotional injury could be caused to a child with media representatives present.
- o To ensure that the best possible plans are being made for children in the care of children's aid societies, their cases will be reviewed by outside individuals on a periodic basis. These could be conducted by Ministry Staff or other experts in child care.
- o Those who arrange private adoptions, other than close family adoptions, must be licensed and must meet standards designed to ensure appropriate placement and to safeguard the interests of the child.
- o All homes where three or more children are in care must be licensed and must meet appropriate standards. Private home day care agencies will also be licensed.

- o Private home day care will be subsidized in certain exceptional cases for developmentally handicapped children between the ages of 10 and 18.
- o Biological parents will no longer be able to withdraw their consent for adoption once the child is placed with his or her adoptive parents, before the final adoption order.
- o Administrative safeguards are being developed to prevent the inappropriate return of a child to training school after he or she has been placed in the community.
- o In-home services will be available to parents of handicapped children to assist them in learning special parenting skills.
- o In special cases services will be provided to 16 and 17-year-old children.
- o There will be a subsidized adoption plan which will benefit hard-to-place children in terms of defraying the extra ordinary costs of caring for them in their adoptive homes.

Copies of the Summary of Children's Services Legislation and the paper, Changes Resulting from Consultation are available upon request from: John Mucha, Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto, M7A 1E9.

Child Abuse Program - Where We're At

(An interview with Herb Sohn - Coordinator, Child Abuse Program)

Child abuse is a subject receiving a lot of attention these days. Although it is not a new phenomenon, people are becoming more concerned with recognizing child abuse sooner, treating it more effectively, and hopefully preventing it.

The budget increases for the child abuse program in the Ministry of Community and Social Services reflect this concern - 1976-77 the budget for grants was \$210,000, in 1977-78 it rose to \$376,000 and this year there is \$859,000 available. This money is being spent primarily to fund demonstration projects in various communities around Ontario. The groups funded have participation from several agencies such as: police departments, school boards, hospitals, public health departments, children's aid societies and native peoples groups.

Demonstration Projects

Most of the original child abuse demonstration projects have been funded for another year. There have also been a few new projects which are currently getting under way. The University of Guelph, for example, did a survey of early childhood educators to see what they knew about child abuse, and what they did when they encountered evidence or had suspicions that children were being abused. The intention is to use this material in developing a curriculum for early childhood education programs across Ontario.

In Toronto we are funding a project to find out how effectively a parents-anonymous group is working. In London one project is looking at high-risk parents and how they can be helped to relate to their babies born prematurely. Another group at the Toronto East General Hospital is seeking to help high-risk parents with infants who fail to thrive.

One of the projects being funded in Toronto is geared to young single mothers - a high-risk group in terms of child abuse. Many of these women feel that having a baby will solve their emotional problems. They feel no one loves nor needs them, and that their babies will give them the love and affection

they never had. Suddenly these women wake up to the fact that babies are not sophisticated enough to give love. Rather the babies are the ones who need the care and attention from their mothers. In cases where a child has some physical ailment, or other problems, the mothers' frustrations can become unbearable.

The project brings these women together once a week for a hairdressing program. The real purpose, however, is for women to be able to talk to each other about things that concern them, and get support from each other and the hairdresser.

One of our new projects is at the University of Toronto. Three faculties cooperated to test a training program for students in social work, nursing and education. Starting in September, they will be using the curriculum developed by the Ministry's child abuse program to instruct the students on how they can identify child abuse, what are high-risk situations, where are the resources in the community and what is the responsibility of a nurse, social worker or teacher in dealing with child abuse.

Inter-Professional Seminars

We are continuing to stimulate and fund inter-professional seminars locally; to date about forty have been held. Each seminar is organized by a local group and has involved an average of about 130 professionals in a one or two-day seminar on child abuse. Discussions included details about child abuse in their community and what needs to be done about it. The child abuse program acts as a catalyst and resource for these seminars.

Federal-Provincial Consultation

In April, we hosted a four-day meeting attended by all the provinces, territories and the federal government. We came up with a series of recommendations dealing with the coordination of effort in research, public education and professional training. These recommendations went to the appropriate ministers in our respective governments. The ministers will be meeting in September and it is believed they will consider the recommendations at that time.

Interministerial Coordination

Mrs. Margaret Birch, the Minister responsible for the Social Development Policy Field, recently appointed an inter-ministerial committee on children's services. One of the major responsibilities of that committee will be the coordination of the child abuse efforts of the Ontario government.

Task Force on Child Abuse

by Ralph Garber, Chairman

The Task Force on Child Abuse has completed its work and presented its report to the Hon. Keith Norton in mid-June. The task force's terms of reference were to examine how the Children's Aid Society (CAS) functions, not only in a crisis situation when children need protection from abusing parents, but also in chronic situations. In looking at the CAS, we paid special attention to the decision-making procedures, staff qualifications and training, supervisory practices, monitoring of case progress, relationship to the court process, and resources available.

The Task Force felt that the Children's Aid Society should continue to have the mandated responsibility for the care and protection of children. This affirmation was accompanied by a recognition that the CAS had insufficient resources of an expert character to carry out its full responsibilities.

One of the ways the task force suggested the CAS be assisted was by getting police and physicians to participate in the process of investigation of possible abuse cases. Another recommendation was that the CASs be assisted by a multi-disciplinary child abuse team, consisting of representatives from various professions, e.g., police, physicians, public health nurses, lawyers, and teachers. This team could help the CAS with assessment, treatment plans and evaluation, as needed.

The task force recommended that legal counsel be accessible to assist the CASs in their presentations to Court in child abuse cases. We also felt that any child who is the subject of a child welfare hearing, should be represented by legal counsel, unless it is not recommended by the Court.

The task force identified the problem of unevenness in service from one CAS to another. Unfortunately, this means that a user of CAS services gets a different quality of service depending on where in the province the person lives. This led us to make a recommendation that guidelines be distributed to all CASs outlining procedures for the proper identification and treatment of child abuse cases. Both the Ministry and the CAS must ensure that these guidelines are followed.

There are many standard-setting actions that will have to be carried out by the Ministry in the monitoring and accreditation of Children's Aid Societies and of those supporting agencies related to child protection.

Children who have been abused, and are under care by the CAS need particular attention because of the traumatic experiences they have had at home--protection by itself is insufficient. The places of safety and the range of alternative care available in some jurisdictions have to be extended throughout the province.

We must also recognize that knowing how best to handle abused children and their families, and what to do at any of the several stages through which they pass, requires specialized training. All those engaged in working with abused children, need to be current on all the information relating to abuse. In many cases, more research needs to be done by these people to further their understanding and capabilities.

Copies of the task force report are available at the Ontario Government Bookstore (880 Bay Street, Toronto), or, by mail, from:

Ministry of Government Services
Publication Service
5th Floor, 880 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N8

The Children's Mental Health Information System

by Chris Macartney, Project Manager

The Children's Mental Health Information System was set up in 1977 to provide information to both centres and the Ministry about children who are referred, assessed and/or treated in children's mental centres.

The purpose of the system was to assist the planning function at many levels - case management, program, and eventually prevention. It was felt that having information related to client characteristics, types of presenting problems, and outcome, would be helpful in identifying or red flagging interesting areas of study. Then, through further research or evaluation, we could determine what interventions appear to be successful with particular groups of clients.

The mechanics of the system are simple - the computer centre is at Queen's Park. Centres complete and submit brief forms at the time of case referral, program change, and termination. Examples of the type of information stored in the system are: birthdate, sex, postal code, client type (e.g., assessment, in-patient, out-patient, and home care), referral source types, previous treatment types, previous placement types, wardship status, and present perceived problem. Information at termination includes such items as reason for termination and disposition. In order to protect confidentiality, the child is not identified by name. Instead, a unique identifier, consisting of part of the name, birthdate and case number are used.

Although CMHSIS began well before the Consultation Paper on Information System Development was published, many of its practices are consistent with the paper's recommendations. The paper, for example, recommends that confidentiality of information be maintained - CMHSIS does so by means of a name code. Another recommendation is that information systems be developed in a modular way - CMHSIS started off in a small way with basic information and has undergone a year of experimentation and testing. A few centres from the Toronto region were the first to be involved, followed gradually by other regional groups. The paper recommends that users be involved in the development of systems and this has been a major consideration throughout the development, implementation, and review process.

Although we have solicited feedback over the past few months via individual letters, personal contact, and the Ontario Association of Children's Mental Health Centres, I'd like to take this opportunity to ask for further feedback, particularly around the output reports. We want to ensure that CMHSIS evolves to become a useful information tool for user agencies. We feel that this system has considerable potential for expansion beyond the realm of Children's Mental Health Centres, some time in the future.

Planning Process Paper Available

A paper on the planning process undertaken by the senior planning committee of the Children's Services Division has been prepared. It is intended to:

- o provide an outline of what is going on, for the benefit of individuals throughout the service system
- o indicate some of the major areas in which change is currently being planned
- o set the scene for the itemized roster of issues and the flow chart system currently used by the senior planning committee in planning activities and monitoring progress.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this paper can do so by contacting:

John Mucha
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Consultation Task Force
700 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9
Telephone: 965-1891

Dealing with Hard-To-Place Children

Les Horne, a former training schools superintendent has been appointed by Judge George Thomson to find places for children whose problems are so complex, no single agency seems willing or able to take them.

Les Horne explains: "Many of these hard-to-place children, previously, would have been sent to training schools under Section 8 of The Training Schools Act. That section contained the 'unmanageable' clause--whereby a child whose family was unable to meet his or her needs, whose community couldn't help, and who had no other resources available to him or her, could be sent to training school. It also applied to all children in training schools under 12, because under Section 9, you couldn't admit a child under 12 to a training school.

"When Section 8 was repealed in 1977, many of the kids that no one could deal with were left without a place to go. An example of this type of person is a girl who does not want to work or go to school, doesn't want to stay in any particular place, is promiscuous and obviously self-destructive. People just didn't know how to intervene with Section 8 gone."

The kids who were released from training schools after Section 8 was repealed, Les pointed out, were still wards of the government. They will still be wards until they have satisfactorily adjusted to the community, or until they reach the age of 18.

Money Available

"I was given the job of reviewing the situation about a year after the repeal of Section 8", Les said, "I found there was money available to service these kids, there were about 260 of them, at the time, but few people knew how to reach that money and use it for alternative care.

"What I discovered was that we were very short of options in the community to deal with a certain type of child--one who is very resistant to authority, self-destructive and really doesn't give a damn what happens to him. There are a lot of those kids around."

"My job now is to try to get existing programs to service children whose needs are not being met by conventional services," explained Les. "I visit or speak to people, trying to present a real feeling about a particular kid and his or her needs. It's easy to dismiss a kid if all you are dealing with is a set of documents. I see the kids as real people and try to present them that way. In order to do that, I either meet the child personally or meet the people working most closely with him or her."

"In some instances, I have to go to Court once or twice to talk to the judge and let him know what people are prepared to offer. I call people beforehand, and many times I can get them to change what they're prepared to offer. There is a lot of negotiation and arbitration involved in my work."

Les points out that a major problem in the system seems to be the inadequacy of alternative living arrangements for kids when they first start running into trouble at home. He said there are a lot of good foster homes around, but not enough.

Lack Support

To make matters worse, foster parents don't always get the kinds of support they need in dealing with the child's difficult behaviour. "In many cases," says Les, "foster parents have to reject the child because they just can't cope with him or her. The child is then placed in an institutional setting where the resources are provided. Maybe that's the wrong place to provide them."

"In my opinion, the best solution for many of these children is to leave them where they are, and provide the resources there--in other words leave the child at home and let a child care worker come in and provide assistance."

"Every time you move a child, you do more damage to him or her--you are saying 'you've failed' or 'we really don't care about your needs for consistency'. It's unfair to treat kids like objects and move them from place to place," Les says.

"To support me in my work with hard-to-place children a committee will be set up with province-wide responsibility to talk about cases, provide advice, and support. I will be able to go to that committee with concerns about special cases, or when I'm not satisfied that I have solved the problem effectively. The committee's other function will be to report to Judge Thomson on service gaps which it notices."

Les's job is to find places for children only after all appropriate agencies and other resources have tried, but have been unable to come up with solutions. He is counting on agencies solving most of their problems without him; he is there to help with the most difficult ones.

Part of his job is to bring people in the field together to solve problems, and he sometimes turns cases back to the field if he feels not enough effort has been made.

Les would appreciate it if people will be very selective about the cases that they take to him. He is one man and there are many problems.

If you have recently changed your address, could you please let us know so that we can keep our mailing list up-to-date. Any changes should be reported to: John Mucha, Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

Services to Franco-Ontarians

To improve its services to the francophone population, a team has been set up within the Children's Services Division to deal with the concerns of French-speaking people. This is in keeping with the Ministry's commitment to develop services to meet the linguistic, regional and cultural needs of Ontarians.

Members of the team will be: a full-time coordinator of francophone services (to be hired shortly), Janet L'Heureux, Executive Assistant to Associate Deputy Minister Judge George Thomson, Philippa McKen of the Program Development and Research Group, and Denis Levesque (on loan part-time from the Ministry of Education).

The responsibilities of the team will be to identify the gaps existing in the provision of services to francophones, and to identify strategies to fill these gaps.

On April 5, 1978, the Hon. Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, announced provincial funding of nearly \$700,000 to establish French-language services in Eastern Ontario. The Children's Services Division is now beginning to stimulate proposals for programs from communities having a significant French-speaking population. Alan Vallillee of the Children's Mental Health Services Branch, Bob Penny of the Child Welfare Branch, Laurent Couture from Correctional Services, and Sandy Lang from the Northern Priorities Implementation Group will be involved in encouraging proposals.

To assist the Division in evaluating the proposals, an advisory task force will be set up. It will be composed of people from Eastern Ontario, familiar with the children's services system in that area as it affects the francophone population. The task force will be chaired by the new coordinator of francophone services. Deadline for submitting proposals will be August 31, 1978; the task force will complete its work by September 30, 1978.

With this input, the four-person Division team will be able to make decisions on how to commit available funds for francophone services.

Several steps are already being taken to meet very specific needs. For example, hiring a speech therapist has been approved for the travelling team which operates in Ottawa and services Prescott-Russell. Also approved is the funding of a recruitment program for francophone foster parents in Ottawa-Carleton.

Si vous desirez une copie français de ce communiqué, veuillez en faire la demande à: John Mucha, Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

Training Schools Advisory Board

Two New Members Appointed

Two new members have been appointed to the Training Schools Advisory Board--Ron Jones and Margaret Kirkpatrick. They join Barry Lowes and Joan Riches on the board.

Ron Jones has a background in administration; he was superintendent of special education in Toronto for five years, and director of education for the Toronto Board of Education for three. He has also taught mental health and special education courses.

Margaret Kirkpatrick has had an eminent career in social work. She has just retired from her position as associate professor at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work, having been a member of the faculty since 1953. Before that she was associate director of the Toronto Social Planning Council.

Functions of the Advisory Board

The advisory board was established under Section 6 of The Training Schools Act. One of its principal functions is to review the progress of wards while in training school.

In reviewing a case, the Advisory board considers what a ward was like upon entering the training school. School progress reports are reviewed. The home environment, described at the time of admission, is reviewed through the home inspection reports. This is done before the ward graduates to ensure the family is now better able to deal with the ward, or that a suitable alternative has been recommended.

The advisory board also reviews the plan proposed for each ward as he or she graduates to the community. Having evaluated the plan submitted by the training school and probation and after-care services, the advisory board makes a recommendation to the Minister, who must ultimately approve any graduation. The board sees itself functioning as a quality check on the plan devised for a ward. It recommends approval for graduation unless there are obvious gaps or contradictions in the proposed plan.

Another aspect of the advisory board's role is to ensure that any special needs of a ward have been considered and provided for. These needs can range from medical and psychological problems to requirements for educational and employment assistance. Examples of questions the advisory board ask are: If a ward is on medication requiring medical supervision, have appropriate arrangements been made? If a female ward is pregnant, have arrangements been made for pre-natal and post-natal care? If psychiatric follow-up was recommended, is it being done? Is the ward able to attend the school or special classes that meet his needs? If the ward is not returning to school, have any concrete steps been taken to increase his or her chances of finding a job?

The advisory board also works with probation and after-care officers by reviewing placement progress reports and is involved in the decision to terminate wardship. Such a recommendation is made when:

- o there has been satisfactory progress on placement for about 12 months
- o the ward is moving out of Ontario with his or her parents
- o the ward has received an adult sentence which will extend beyond his or her eighteenth birthday, or close to it
- o there has been an adult sentence, plus probation and resistance to counselling.

Another function of the advisory board is to inspect all training schools and report their findings to the Minister. If it feels changes are desirable, it makes recommendations on ways to improve the overall operation of the schools.

Members of the advisory board also serve on several ministry task forces, relating to services for juveniles in training schools.

Task Force on Family Court Clinics

The draft report prepared by the Task Force on Family Court Clinics was circulated to almost 300 people involved in working with the Family Courts. This task force was established by the Children's Services Division in November, 1977 to look into the role and operation of existing Family Court Clinics. Feedback from the consultation was considered, and a number of suggestions have been incorporated into the final report. In the report, the task force developed a set of principles and guidelines which can apply to any Family Court Clinic or service.

The task force was chaired by Barry Lowes, Chairman of the Training Schools Advisory Board. Members included Chief Judge of the Family Court, H.T.G. Andrews, two Family Court Judges, M.H. Genest and J.D. Karswick, the three directors of the existing clinics, Dr. Peter Jaffe, Dr. John Leverette and Mrs. Ruth Parry, and a staff member of the Division, Mrs. Janet L'Heureux.

The Division felt the task force's work on developing guidelines for Family Court Clinics would be important for the following reasons:

- o to help establish a framework for the operation of existing clinics
- o to clarify the relationship which should exist between the court and the clinic
- o to educate the judges about the clinic's function and the clinician (staff member working in a clinic) about the judge's needs
- o to assure the public of a consistently high quality of service.

Such guidelines would also be valuable in assisting in the mobilization, coordination and utilization of resources necessary for the establishment of any similar court-related clinical service.

Copies of the report will be available on request in the fall from the Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9, (416) 965-1891.

1979 - International Year of the Child

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 1979 the International Year of the Child. The UN resolution urges the peoples and governments of the world to:

"Renew their concerns for children - our world's most precious resource.

Review their local and national programs for children.

Re-affirm their determination to increase services benefitting the child on a permanent basis."

Ontario is working with the other provinces, the federal government, representatives from business, labour, schools and the arts on the establishment of a Canadian Commission for International Year of the Child. The province is also planning its own initiatives for the year, under the direction of the Hon. Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development, in cooperation with other concerned ministries.

We would like to hear from you. If you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please write: The Editor, Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

This newsletter is published periodically as a means of reaching those concerned with the provision of children's services. It is distributed to organizations in the fields of direct child care, health care, education, government, to special interest groups, and concerned individuals.

Special editions are published to announce and outline consultation papers which deal with specific child care issues.

You are invited to write for copies of specific consultation papers, and to respond to them so that new child care policies and legislation can better reflect the needs of the communities they are intended to serve.

Consultation Task Force
Children's Services Division
700 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9



Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division

No. 7, October, 1978

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First Four Children's Services Committees Chosen

The Minister of Community and Social Services, Keith C. Norton, announced the selection of four Ontario communities to develop the first local children's services committees in the province in late August.

"Selection of these committees represents a major shift in policy, a new era in child care," Mr. Norton said.

"It is our long-term goal to see local committees throughout the province responsible for the planning, evaluation and funding of children's services in their respective areas. In short, we wish to have a system that has as its base, decision-making and priority-setting at the local level.

"As announced earlier, provincial funding will ultimately flow to and be allocated by local governments. This, effectively, places full accountability on the local elected representatives for the delivery of services to children within provincial standards and guidelines. Therefore, whatever the structure and composition of the committee, the ultimate authority for the delivery of appropriate levels of service rests with the local councils."

The four areas chosen to develop the first local children's services committees are:

- the Regional Municipality of York
- the City of Windsor and the County of Essex
- the Regional Municipality of Niagara
- and the combined counties of Prince Edward and Hastings

Fifteen suggested models from all areas of the province were received as a result of the ministry's Consultation Paper on Local Children's Services Committees, distributed in January.

Mr. Norton said the ministry will provide 100 percent funding for the four models while they are in the developmental stage.

The local municipalities involved, however, will be contributing some services during that time, and the provincial and local governments will be discussing cost-sharing arrangements to become effective at a future date.

"Initially, the committees will be primarily concerned with information gathering and the performance of a general advisory role, with responsibility for attending to the care of particularly hard-to-place and hard-to-serve children," he stated.

Subsequently the committees will progress to a second stage of their development performing planning duties based on information gathered, developing local priorities for program development, and reviewing budgets of all children's services in the area.

"Once they have had sufficient experience with these responsibilities and have increased their competencies," Mr. Norton said, "the committees will assume the final responsibility and authority for ensuring that a full range of required services is available in the community. This will include responsibility for the evaluation of programs and the allocation of funds."

"In the long run," he said, "local committees will be in place for all areas of the province and will be given the authority to coordinate, plan, evaluate and fund children's services in their own areas.

"In this way, we intend to fulfill our commitment to the development of local children's services committees throughout Ontario that will be a keystone in the reorganization of children's services."

"Though a large share of our resources for local coordination will be in the communities I have just designated, we also intend to promote efforts at voluntary coordination in other areas."

"Officials from the Ministry's Children's Services Division will be available to provide consultation, information and technical assistance. The experiences we gain from our evaluation of the four models will be freely and regularly shared with community groups to help their own efforts at local coordination. Financial assistance in limited amounts will be available when necessary to encourage and support local coordinating activities."

The Minister also stated that ministry officials were working with officials in Northern Ontario communities in an effort to develop a model that would be suitable for that part of the province.

"The whole notion of a local municipality takes on new dimensions in the north because of the great distances and the widely-dispersed population," Mr. Norton said.

"As a result of our ongoing efforts to overcome those problems, however, I am hopeful that I will be able to designate a developmental model in the north later this year or early in 1979."

Upcoming Consultation Papers

Several more key issues will be dealt with in consultation, discussion, and policy papers to be published in the next few months. Although the timing of all the papers has not yet been finalized, one of the first to be released will be the two-volume paper on standards and guidelines for residential care (see story on page 4).

Others to come will include the task force report on volunteers, a report of the Ontario Association for Children's Aid Societies/Provincial funding task force, consultation or discussion papers on child welfare, confidentiality, assessment, advocacy and on legal rights and responsibilities. In addition there will be policy papers on funding issues, and Northern priorities.

Consultation Paper Update

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments	226	passed*
Local Children's Services Committees	53	passed**
Information Systems Development	10	passed

* Legislation package discussed by the Standing Committee on Social Development (see story on this page)

** First four committees selected (see story on page 1)

Update on Children's Services Legislation

Throughout September, the Standing Social Development Committee, an all-party committee of the Legislature, has been studying the short-term legislative amendments affecting children's services. A package of Bills was introduced in the Legislature in June, received second reading, and was referred to committee.

In committee, Bills are examined clause by clause. Amendments are made, although the principle of a Bill which has already had second reading in the Legislature cannot be changed.

The Children's Services Division is preparing guidelines for program use which will help provide a framework for new procedures outlined in the legislative amendments. In addition, regulations, standards, forms, manuals, work plans and training material for children's aid societies and judges are being developed.

The Division anticipates that much of the material described above will be available following the committee hearings.

Policy papers related to funding, budgeting, advocacy, prevention, investigation and information systems are also being prepared, and will be released in the coming months.

Are you up-to-date?

Regular children's services newsletters were published this year in:
February, 1978
June, 1978
July, 1978

Special edition newsletters were:
January 1978 - on the consultation paper, "Local Children's Services Committees: Planning for the Future"
May 1978 - on the consultation paper, "Information Systems Development for Children's Services in Ontario"

All of the above are available in French. Copies of any of these newsletters can be obtained by contacting: The Consultation Task Force, 12th Floor - 700 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9. Tel: 961-1891.

Feedback on Consultation

How are we doing in consultation?

That's the question members of the Consultation Task Force were seeking to answer this summer with an ambitious program to generate feedback.

Using personal interviews with a random sample of newsletter readers across the province, as well as mailed questionnaires to a wider sample of organizations and agencies concerned with children's services, the task force sought opinions and perceptions on how the consultation process is working.

Jim Boyd, a political science student from York University helped establish the ground rules and conducted the preliminary test interviews. John Mucha, the task force's project officer, did most of the out-of-town interviews.

The group wanted to find out what readers thought of the newsletter. There were questions on how readable it is and how well does it serve its audience? Another aim was to try to find out why people asked for consultation papers, but did not respond to them. They were also looking for people's views on Community Liaison Groups. They wanted ideas and suggestions for improvement.

Interviewers visited Ottawa, Kingston, London, Windsor, Barrie, Oshawa, Sudbury, Kenora, Hamilton and the Toronto area. Two hundred additional questionnaires were mailed out. Divisional staff were included in the survey, as were a selection of professional and agency associations.

While final results are not in, a preliminary look at some of the questionnaires indicated that people thought the consultation process was progressing reasonably well, but that a number of improvements could be made. Several people said that although they felt the process was imperfect, they were surprised and pleased that consultation was being carried out at all...

Charles Coon, who guided the evaluation for Consultation Task Force says that suggestions and ideas generated by the survey will be incorporated into the consultation process, wherever possible.

"For example," Charles says, "Carol Sevitt, editor of the newsletter, has already made some changes to the newsletter partly as a result of suggestions from the survey. We also have some indications that people feel there is not enough time to respond to consultation papers - and they don't like having to deal with more than one at a time."

With more consultation papers on the way, the idea is to give all those who want to have a say in developing new policies and legislation, the opportunity to do so.

Standards and Guidelines For Residential Services

A consultation paper on standards and guidelines for children's services in Ontario will be published shortly. The paper is entitled Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines.

The paper presents the standards and guidelines proposed for residential care facilities, as follows:

1. rights in children's residential care facilities,
2. organization and management of the facility,
3. residential child care programming,
4. human resources in residential care,
5. integration of the facility within the community,
6. the physical plant of the facility.

A future newsletter will explain in greater detail the contents of this consultation paper, once it has been released.

Sets of standards and guidelines for foster care, non-residential casework and several other aspects of children's services will be published some time in the future.

Community Involvement in Two Programs in Chatham

by R.J. Wilson, Senior Probation and Aftercare Officer

1. Delinquent Children do Community Service Work

A new program operating in Chatham requires that children who have been found guilty of an offence participate, as a condition of probation, in community service work.

The purposes of this program are:

- to provide an alternate means of solving problems involving delinquent acts of children,
- to protect the community and individuals from further delinquency,
- to provide the child with an opportunity to undo his or her wrongs,
- to try to involve the community in the best solution of the problem, and also to provide some compensation for the community,
- to instill responsibility for conduct in the home, school and community, as well as the values of good citizenship and responsibility to the community.

The amount of community work time is decided by Judge L.G. DeKoning, Provincial Court Family Division. The average community service work order has been anywhere from five to fifteen hours.

There were forty-one children in the program in its first year of operation. They completed a total of 596 hours of community service work. Children worked in twelve different community resources in the County of Kent, including churches, senior citizens residences and hospitals. In terms of dollars, the community saved about \$1,600 by having these children work in these localities.

Out of the forty-one participants, not one has been in further conflict with the law during the first year of the program's operation. We received many telephone calls from the institutions involved, advising us that they were completely satisfied with the work, and in most cases described the children as being helpful and courteous.

Some of the children continued to work with a particular community resource after their work program was completed because they enjoyed the involvement.

When the community service is satisfactorily completed, probation is terminated, or in some cases the Probation Officer continues on with regular supervision.

2. Drug and Alcohol Information Program

Last summer, an educational program was implemented in Chatham for juveniles found delinquent in Family Court of minor consuming charges, possession of marijuana charges, or any other offence involving abuse of drugs or alcohol. A six-week course was set up, with the Addiction Research Foundation acting as program consultant.

Participants of the program were usually ordered to attend by the Family Court Judge, as a condition of probation. There is also provision for voluntary attendance, and for referrals from other social agencies in the community.

Some of the objectives of the program were:

- to provide minor users with a sound knowledge base regarding alcohol and drugs,
- to provide a positive group experience and an opportunity for these young people to discuss their personal problems relating to alcohol and drugs,

- to foster a healthier outlook toward community helping organizations so that participants will not be reluctant to use these organizations when needed in the future.

The first session provides an introduction to the program and an opportunity for the participants to get to know each other. The second session, presented by the Chatham Community Centre, focuses upon values and how they relate to the recreational activities of young people. The third session is on parent/child communication.

Session four, given by an Addiction Research Foundation spokesman, presents factual data and discusses the adverse effects caused by continuous misuse of drugs or alcohol. The participants have an opportunity to articulate any questions or doubts and to receive answers from a qualified source. At this session there is also a talk by a member of an alcoholic self-help group who shares his or her own story with the group.

The fifth session illustrates the problems that result from the misuse-abuse of alcohol or drugs from the perspective of a law enforcement agency. Since many incarcerations are related in some way to alcohol or drugs, the young people become aware of their own abuses. A film is shown followed by a discussion led by an Ontario Provincial Police Officer. The final session is a review and evaluation of the course by the participants.

Since last August, thirty-five young people referred by the Family Court have completed the program. To date, none of the participants have been charged with further offences relating to the use of alcohol or drugs.

We feel very confident that both of the programs described have had a positive effect on the participants. We can thank our community for its efforts in helping us provide our young people with both a sense of good citizenship and the truth about the positive and negative effects of alcohol and drugs.

Service Directory

An 800 page directory of all the residential children's services in Ontario (excluding mental retardation facilities and children's hospitals) will be published later this fall. One of the purposes of the directory is to provide a wider range of alternatives in placements.

For each residence the directory will list: address; phone number; name of director; for males or females; maximum bed capacity; age range; which emergency cases accepted; designated catchment area; which conditions, problems or behaviour patterns not accepted by the residence; from where are referrals accepted; number of staff; hours of admission; documentation required for admission; types of assessment done; primary goals of the program; minimum length of stay; maximum length of stay; professional support staff; francophone services; school program; physical setting; governing legislation; types of guardian status.

The residences will be listed alphabetically within regions. There will be indices at the back of the directory separating the various types of services e.g., homes for unwed mothers, mental health centres, homes for boys and homes for girls.

The information on the residences is coming from questionnaires mailed to each residence. The intent of the questionnaire is; 1) to get planning and research information on all the residences in Ontario for the Division's use (the information is being used for the proposed residential standards and guidelines to be released this fall) 2) to develop the directory.

The questionnaire, eighty-four pages long with 288 questions, was designed to cover large institutions as well as smaller residences. It takes about six to eight hours to complete it. To ensure accuracy and validity of the information collected there has been an

intensive follow-up program consisting of both telephone and personal interviews. Every questionnaire returned has been carefully checked by at least two different people before being sent to the computer.

The Division had hoped to release the service directory in September, but because the questionnaires have not been coming back at the anticipated rate, the distribution of the directory has been delayed a few weeks. It is hoped that each residence will have the opportunity to preview the appropriate entry as a final accuracy check.

Residences with changes to report will be requested to fill out changes notice forms, found at the back of the directory. Individual updated pages can then be sent out to all directory holders. The directories will be in loose-leaf binders, so pages can be changed easily.

The service directory is the first major children's services package to go out to the public. Hopefully it will serve as a useful tool for service - providers. Probation and aftercare officers, Family Courts, Children's Aid Societies and all the listed residences will receive copies of the directory automatically. The co-operation of all of the residences participating in this project has been greatly appreciated by the Division.

Update on Re-organization

The re-organization plans for the Division are now well advanced. It was originally announced that the re-organization plans for the entire Ministry would be announced on October 1, but because of unanticipated delays, the announcement has been postponed one month. A future issue of this newsletter will be devoted to re-organization and will explain it in detail.

Volunteer Programming

A committee chaired by Alex Honeyford, a probation and aftercare officer, has been looking at volunteer programming throughout the Children's Services Division.

Members of the Committee are: Ruth Burrows, Day Care program; Anne Carter, Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society; Joyce Fisher, Volunteer Coordinator of Oakville Reception and Assessment Centre; Joyce Templeton, Volunteer Coordinator at Thistletown Regional Centre; Audrey Watson, Surrey Place, Mental Retardation Branch; Merice Boswell, Observation and Detention Homes; Sally Munroe, Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded; Lena Cook, Ontario Welfare Council.

The committee is preparing a consultation paper dealing with issues related to volunteer programs, scheduled to be released later this year.

Work Plan for Children's Aid Societies

To control and co-ordinate the many requests being made of the Children's Aid Societies by the Children's Services Division, a plan has been devised to channel all requests through the Director of Child Welfare.

This was done because a tremendous time commitment was being asked of the Societies to provide information, fill in questionnaires and participate in consultation, at the request of the Division.

Mrs. Margaret Farina has been named as the contact person in the Child Welfare Branch to be consulted on any upcoming projects or activities that affect Children's Aid Societies. Other branches within the Division each are expected to name a person who will serve the same function for projects affecting their agencies.

Currently there are twenty-six projects planned or already in operation which impact on the Societies. It is hoped that coordination will result in combining some of these in the future, exploring other ways of obtaining the information, and generally designing and spacing the requests to reduce the impact on the Societies. Initially, the signature of the Director of Child Welfare will be necessary to validate any project request to Children's Aid Societies.

A description of the various projects now underway or planned for the near future has been sent to all CAS's. Copies of this can be obtained from: The Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, TORONTO, Ontario, M7A 1E9. Telephone: 965-1891.

Proposals For Services To Francophones In Eastern Ontario

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is asking for proposals for the development of services to francophone children and families in those parts of eastern Ontario where there is a significant francophone population. This comprises the Region of Ottawa-Carleton and the counties of Prescott-Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

At the same time, the Ministry is also undertaking surveys to identify the priority service needs of francophones in this area. This is being done to ensure that funds are allocated to those programs which most truly meet existing needs.

Approximately \$450,000 is now available for new program initiatives. Proposals are to deal with services for children in the areas of mental health, child welfare, family support, day care and juvenile corrections. Originally \$700,000 was available for services to francophones in eastern Ontario. However, \$250,000 has already been allotted for the development of a mental health program in the counties of Prescott-Russell.

Because financial resources are limited, it is possible that not all proposals judged to have high priority will receive

funding this year. Such proposals can, however, be considered for funding in the future.

Reviewing proposals for funding are Ms. Philippa McKen and Ms. Janet L'Heureux of the Children's Services Division with assistance from an Advisory Task Force on Francophone Services. Its members are:

Mrs. Jacqueline Neatby,
Chairman of Subcommittee on Language Requirements
Social Planning Council,
OTTAWA, Ontario

Dr. J.F. Pierre-Louis
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
OTTAWA, Ontario

Mr. Pierre Lalonde
Local Director of the Children's
Aid Society of Prescott-Russell
PLANTAGENET, Ontario

Mr. Jerome Duplantie
Guidance Counsellor
Family Counselling Centre of Cornwall
and United Counties
CORNWALL, Ontario

Judge Guy Goulard
Provincial (Family) Court
OTTAWA, Ontario

Mr. Leo Paquette
Ottawa Separate School Board
OTTAWA, Ontario

New Director of Programs in the Child Welfare Branch

Mr. Bruce Heath, a field supervisor in the Child Welfare Branch, has been appointed Director of Programs. He replaces Mr. Terry O'Brien who had been seconded to the Division three days a week, and is now returning to his responsibilities as Executive Director of the Family and Children's Services of London and Middlesex.

This is an interim arrangement, pending re-organization of the Division later this fall.

Implementation of the Report of the Task Force on Child Abuse

by Margaret Farina, Child Welfare Branch

Implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force and Child Abuse are well under way. The task force, chaired by Dr. Ralph Garber, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto, was appointed by the Minister to examine the services provided for abused children in Ontario. Since the report was tabled in the Legislature last June, staff of the Children's Services Division have been studying the report and looking at ways to implement its recommendations.

The Children's Services Division staff working on the implementation of the Report of the Task Force on Child Abuse have arranged for the drafting of preliminary guidelines for the handling of child abuse cases by Children's Aid Societies. This work is being headed by Ross Dawson, Assistant Director of the Algoma Children's Aid Society, a well-known expert in this field.

Four recommendations in the report of the task force deal with the need for written standards of service and guidelines for Children's Aid Societies. Dr. Gordon Askwith of the Hamilton-Wentworth Children's Aid Society is chairing a committee of protection workers and supervisors to draft guidelines on apprehension of children in high-risk situations.

Within the Ministry, the Child Abuse Program is working on guidelines for use of the Central Child Abuse Registry. The Standards and Information Branch is developing a complete package of standards for all children's services within the Division.

To complement these standards and guidelines, a comprehensive staff training program is being planned which will involve seminars for supervisors, front-line workers and court workers, and a program for foster parents.

To discuss planning to date, a meeting of the Presidents and local Directors of all Children's Aid Societies was held on September 8th. The Honourable Keith

Norton, who initiated the task force, introduced the discussion and shared with the Societies the Ministry's thoughts and plans regarding the report.

Copies of The Research Papers for the Report of the Task Force on Child Abuse are now available. (The report itself was published in June). The research papers can be obtained in person from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, TORONTO, or by mail from Publications Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, TORONTO, M7A 1N8, Price: \$4.00.

Ministry Receives Grant For Funding Research

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has received a \$4 million grant to carry out research related to children. The money comes from the Provincial Lottery, and is one of the Ontario Government's programs associated with the International Year of the Child, beginning January 1, 1979. It is expected that the research will be carried out over the next few years.

The Ministry must now begin to develop a process for the orderly development of research priorities. The next step will be to inform the research community of those priorities and invite submissions for funding.

Some examples of worthwhile research projects may deal with: approaches and methods of evaluating programs; prevention and eventual prevention strategies; suicide by young people. Certain demonstration projects related to specific programs or institutions, and evaluation of those demonstration projects would also be eligible for funding.

It has yet to be worked out how grants will be allocated by the Ministry. When that has been determined, a future issue of this newsletter will explain it in detail.

This newsletter is published periodically as a means of reaching those concerned with the provision of children's services. It is distributed to organizations in the fields of direct child care, health care, education, government, to special interest groups, and concerned individuals.

Special editions are published to announce and outline consultation papers which deal with specific child care issues.

You are invited to write for copies of specific consultation papers, and to respond to them so that new child care policies and legislation can better reflect the needs of the communities they are intended to serve.

Consultation Task Force
Children's Services Division
700 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9



Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division

No. 8, October, 1978



A major consultation paper entitled Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines has recently been released. It presents the first standards to be developed by the Children's Services Division, and is expected to be of great interest to people in the children's services field.

The paper was prepared by the Standards and Information Systems Group. Staff involved included: Michael Ozerkevich, chairman of the task force, Jim Anglin, Ron Bakker, Sabarijah Klein, Ray Lazanik, Dave Millar and Anne Sheffield.

The Need for Standards

Standards are important in order to set minimum levels of acceptable care in the children's services delivery system. No comprehensive set of standards is currently in force, although standards of various types are in effect through the regulations in existing legislation.

Comprehensive standards will serve several important purposes:

- they will set out requirements for the quality of care, continuity of care and consistency in decision-making to ensure that children with special needs and their families are better served.
- they will provide those working with children with a basis for determining the gaps that exist in their service and the improvements that could be made in care.

- they will establish measures to increase accountability for service within the system.
- they will help local and provincial governments make funding decisions by providing a basis for determining gaps, duplication and needed improvements in service.

Developing the Standards

The process of developing the standards and guidelines has included:

- preparatory work by staff, including a detailed review of standards developed in all parts of Canada and the United States pertaining to children's services.
- drafting of the standards and guidelines with working groups from the child care community.
- reviewing the draft material with the Provincial Standards Development Advisory Committee.

Now that the paper has been released for public consultation, people working in the children's services field will have an opportunity to comment on the standards and guidelines. The consultation period ends April 1, 1979. All written comments will be reviewed by the Standards Group, and based on those comments, appropriate alterations will be made to the standards and guidelines before they are issued in their final form.

In order to provide accountability, standards are stated in objective, measurable terms. They set out minimum acceptable levels of performance, and will be enforced through regulations made under licensing legislation. Compliance with the standards will be a condition of licensing.

Guidelines dealing with quality of service are also outlined in the consultation paper, and are more numerous than standards. Compliance with these guidelines will not be a condition of licensing, but will, of course, be preferred practice.

Although the Division hopes to increase accountability and improve quality of service by setting standards, it does not want initiative and innovation by service-providers to suffer as a result. Hopefully the consultation process will help to determine an appropriate balance between specific requirements for service and flexibility to develop new services and programs.

The proposed standards and guidelines are designed to be applicable to the full range of residential facilities and programs for which the Division has standard-setting responsibilities. Facilities affected range from foster group homes and small "parent-model" group homes, to large institutions; programs range from those providing basic care to those providing highly specialized services.

The standards and guidelines are intended to be applied differently in different types of facilities. The intention is to ensure a consistent approach to a common concern -- high-quality care for children.

Children's Rights

A statement of rights for children in residential care facilities form the basis of five basic sets of residential care standards and guidelines. These rights are:

1. Every child has the right to access to Ontario's children's residences free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion and ethnic origin.
2. Every child has the right to live in clean, safe surroundings.
3. Every child has the right to receive adequate and appropriate food, clothing and housing.
4. Every child has the right to receive adequate and appropriate medical care.
5. Every child has the right to be free from physical abuse and inhumane treatment.
6. Every child has the right to receive appropriate and reasonable adult guidance, support and supervision.
7. Every child has the right to receive an educational program.
8. Every child has the right to enjoy freedom of thought and of conscience.
9. Every child has the right to reasonable enjoyment of privacy.
10. Every child has the right to have his or her opinions heard and to be included, to the greatest extent possible, when any decisions are being made affecting his or her life.

Residential Care Standards and Guidelines

The standards and guidelines are grouped into several categories. A brief description of them follows.

Organization and Management of Residential Services. Standards and guidelines in this section apply to operators of residential services and cover:

- statement of purpose
- governing body that is ultimately responsible for all policies and activities
- administrative and personnel practices and procedures
- record keeping, including financial reporting, minutes of meetings,

inventory control, personnel records, registry of children and case records

- required insurance
- written policy on public relations.

Programming. Standards and guidelines for basic care programming cover:

- overall program orientation, receiving the child into care and the individualized plan of care
- daily living experience
- discipline, punishment and control
- family and community involvement
- staff-child relationships
- program staff practices and procedures
- the prime worker for the child
- the children's grievance procedure
- education, recreation and leisure
- specialized services
- documentation, recording and reporting
- transfer or discharge of the child from care and aftercare.

Standards and guidelines for specialized programming cover:

- treatment strategies
- secure care
- the use of locked isolation rooms.

Human Resources. Standards and guidelines for workers in residential facilities cover:

- competencies for direct care workers and their supervisors
- training and staff development
- teamwork and supervision
- staff-child relations.

Community Integration. The standards and guidelines for integration of residential care facilities within the community cover:

- facility planning, including pre-licensing documentation
- facility operation, including policies for accountability to the community, compatibility with neighbourhood patterns and neighbourhood interaction.

Physical Plant. The topics covered in this set of standards and guidelines are:

- location of facilities
- statutes and regulations, codes and local by-laws
- grounds and equipment
- accommodation
- heating and ventilation
- fire safety and health.

Monitoring of Standards

To ensure minimally acceptable standards of service, the Ministry proposed to require compliance with standards as a condition of licensing. Under the new Children's Residential Services Act:

- compliance with the standards will be required of all operators responsible for the care of three or more unrelated children
- government-run as well as private agencies will be licensed
- agencies may be exempted from compliance with certain of the standards for periods of time to enable them to improve their performance to the required level
- licensing decisions may be appealed.

It is also proposed that every agency be reviewed at least once every three years to determine compliance with all the standards applicable to its services. On proof of compliance, agencies will be issued with licences valid for one year. The licence will normally be issued annually for the two succeeding years before the next review if operators provide: 1) proof of continued compliance with the standards and other provincial and municipal requirements relating to health and safety, 2) annual documentation required in the standards.

To fulfill the Ministry's responsibility for ensuring high quality care, a review process will be established to monitor agencies' performance. The proposed review will have two aims -- to determine compliance with the standards, and to encourage attainment of the optimal levels of performance defined by the guidelines. This review process should increase awareness of

the standards and guidelines on the part of service-providers.

Most agencies will be reviewed only once every three years, and disruption of their activities will be minimized. In most cases the review team will have only three members. The team will consist of one person who provides a similar service, a person familiar with local conditions, and a person who knows how comparable agencies function elsewhere.

Six months before the review, the agency will be provided with a self-assessment manual and information-gathering materials to be completed before the review.

The review team will inform the agency of its general findings before it completes a formal, two-part report consisting of:

- 1) a standards report which will make a clear recommendation for issuance or renewal of a licence, issuance or renewal of a licence with conditions, or denial of a licence. This report will be retained by the Ministry, by the agency and by the local children's services committee for the area;
- 2) a guidelines report which will be presented to the agency with guidance on how to apply the findings. This will become the property of the agency, to be released only at its discretion.

Future Standards Development

Forthcoming sets of standards and guidelines for children's services will cover:

- foster care
- information systems and records management
- non-residential casework
- non-residential child care
- day nurseries
- diversion
- program evaluation

- special functions programs e.g., those providing services for children with developmental or physical handicaps or performing specialized functions such as secure care.

Obtaining Your Copy

If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation paper please write to:

Consultation Task Force
Children's Services Division
700 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9
Telephone: 965-1891

Copies will also be available from the community liaison groups or the COMSOC district office nearest you.

Barrie
70 Collier Street, 5th Floor, Box 910
Tel: 737-1311

Belleville
14 Bridge Street West, Box 816
Tel: 962-9562

Cornwall
132 Second Street East, Box 1358
Tel: 932-3381

Hamilton
100 Main Street East, 39th Floor
Tel: 526-9300

Keewatin (Kenora)
104 Government Road, Box 429
Tel: 547-2801

Kingston
1055 Princess Street, Suite 103
Tel: 544-6206

Kirkland Lake
8 Hudson Bay Avenue, Box 398
Tel: 567-3391

Lindsay
322 Kent Street West
Ontario Government Building
Tel: 324-6128

London
495 Richmond Street, 6th Floor
Tel: 438-5111

Mississauga
55 City Centre Drive, Suite 303
Tel: 272-1972

North Bay
222 McIntyre Street West, Suite 408
Tel: 474-3540

Ottawa
2197 East Riverside Drive, Suite 705
Tel: 737-5520

Sault Ste. Marie
123 March Street, Suite 304, Box 68
Tel: 256-5666

St. Catharines
110 James Street, 5th Floor, Box 176
Tel: 688-3022

Sudbury
127 Cedar Street, 3rd Floor, Box 1120
Tel: 674-3151

Thunder Bay
1200 Walsh Street West
Tel: 475-1300

Toronto
110 Eglinton Avenue West, 5th Floor
Tel: 965-8449

Waterloo
75 King St. S., 5th Floor
Tel: 886-4700

Windsor
250 Windsor Avenue, 1st Floor
Tel: 254-1651

Another recently released paper of more specialized interest entitled Consultation Paper on Standards and Guidelines for Children's Services describes in greater detail the approaches being taken to standard setting and monitoring. This document is summarized at the beginning of the major document Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines, and thus will not be distributed generally. A limited number of copies will be available at the district offices listed above.

The Consultation Process

Meetings will be held over the next few months where Division staff will answer inquiries concerning the approach to standards development and monitoring, as well as the specific content of the residential care standards and guidelines. The meetings will bring together groups and individuals having common interests e.g., providing the same types of services, or working in the same community.

The standards and guidelines just released are expected to generate great interest. Groups and individuals wishing to attend consultation meetings are requested to notify the Division as soon as possible. Please send your name and address, noting your particular interest to:

Mr. Ray Lazanik
Project Manager
Standards and Information Systems Group
700 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9

If you are not located in one of the larger centres of the province, please indicate where it would be most convenient for you to attend a meeting.

Written submissions are also invited outlining general observations, and offering detailed comments on specific standards and guidelines.

To help speed up the processing of your submission we would ask that you enclose a completed summary sheet. Blank copies of the summary sheets are available from the community liaison groups, the COMSOC district offices and the Consultation Task Force office.

The Division suggests that those with a common interest or concern set up committees for joint study of the material, and as much as possible, consolidate their written responses. Written comments should be mailed to the Consultation Task Force, at the address given on page 4.

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Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
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Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division



Vol. 3, No. 1, January, 1979

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Reorganization Announced

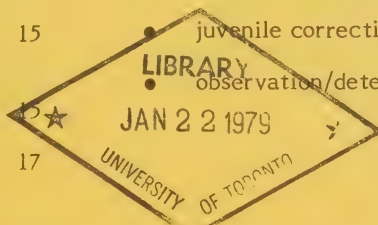
On November 27, 1978, the Hon. Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, announced a reorganization of the ministry. He also announced the appointment of four regional directors for the Children's Services Division.

This marked the beginning of decentralization of responsibility and authority for service delivery from central branches at Queen's Park to regionally located staff.

The changes will be phased in gradually and will be completed by March 31, 1979. The affected service fields will be notified of the date when they cease relating to an existing program branch and begin relating to the regional directors and their staff.

The programs to be affected in this Division are:

- children's mental health services
- child welfare services (children's aid societies, children's boarding homes, children's and youth's institutions, charitable institutions)
- day nurseries
- juvenile corrections (all programs)
- observation/detention homes.



In addition, services to the mentally retarded will be reorganized. At present, the Developmental Resources Division has jurisdiction over institutions and community programs for the mentally retarded and their families. On April 1, 1979 community services programs for the retarded will be split between the Adult Services Division and the Children's Services Division, with mental retardation specialist capacity at the regions. For an interim period beyond that date, institutions will continue to be managed under a General Manager, Facilities Services.

**

	Central	Southeast	Southwest	North
Regional Director	Toronto	Kingston	London	Sault Ste. Marie

The location of area offices remains to be determined.

Regional Directors

The four regional directors appointed and their regions are:

- Dr. Ken Beck - (Central) formerly Regional Director, Juvenile Division, Correctional Services
- Dr. Gillian Doherty - (Southwest) formerly Acting Director of the Children's Mental Health Services Branch
- Miss Valerie Gibbons - (North) formerly Area Administrator, Northwestern Ontario, Juvenile Division, Correctional Services
- Mr. Ken Macdonald - (Southeast) formerly Director of the Child Welfare Branch.

For the last seven months they have been area planning coordinators working on plans for a regional system.

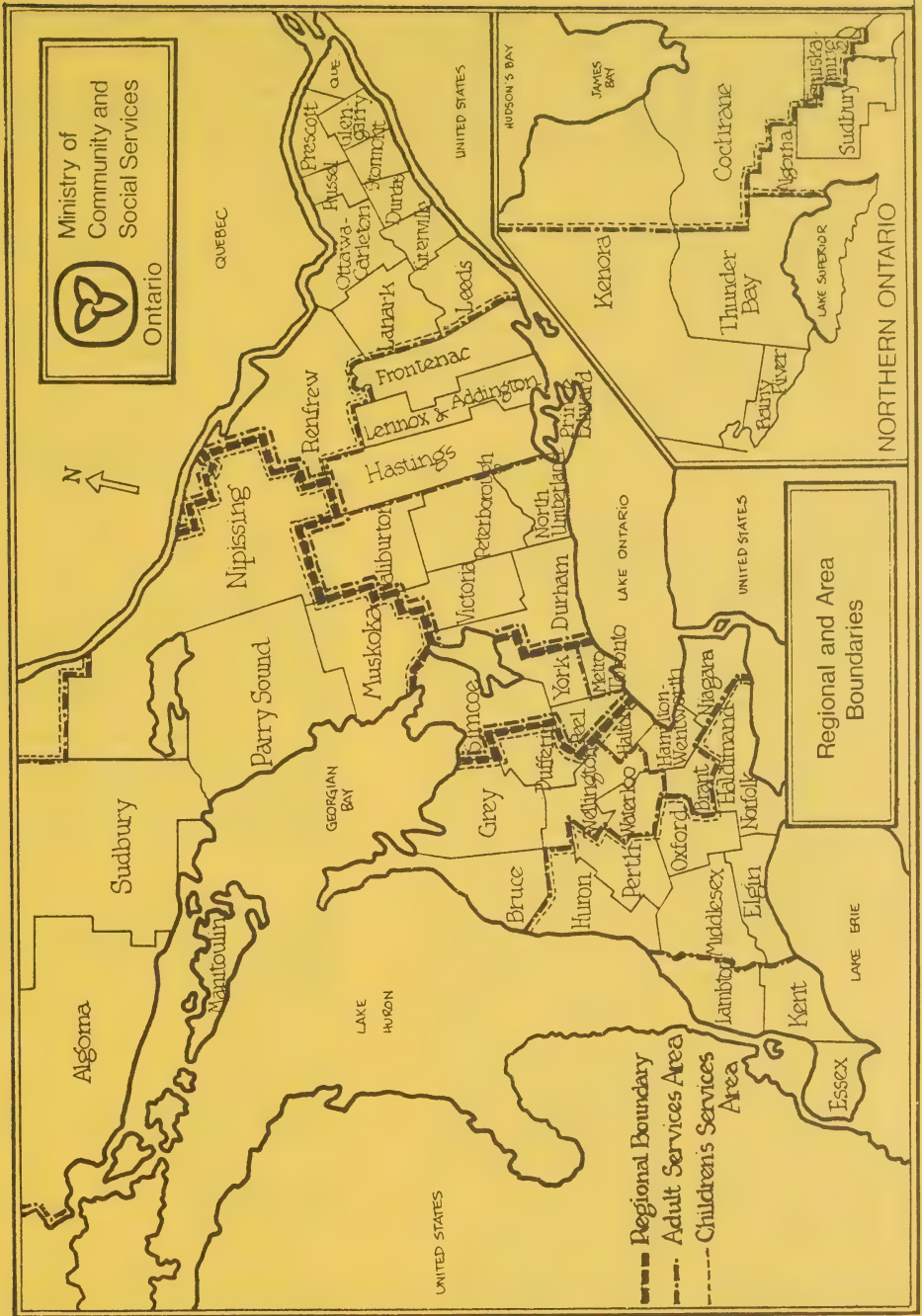
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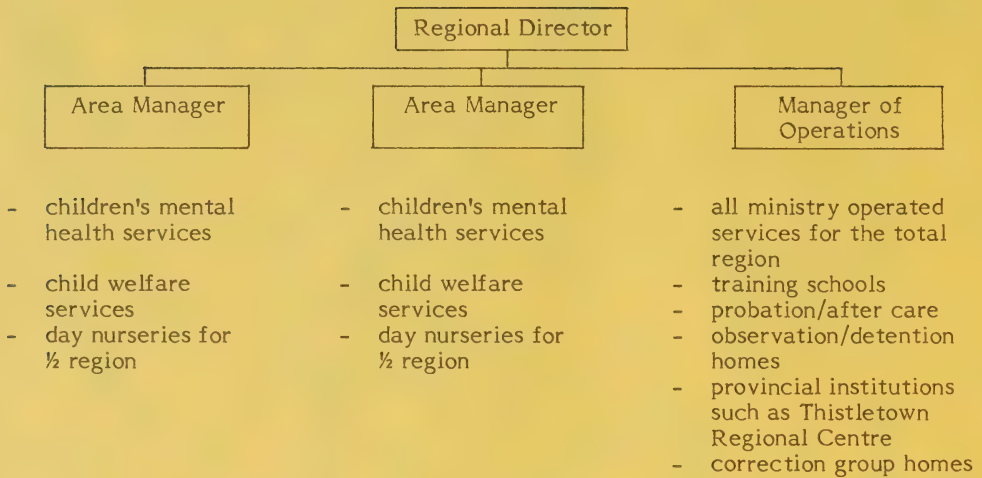
Regional Structure

The province will be divided into four regions (see map on page 3). The regional directors will be located as indicated on the following table:

a) The Three Southern Regions

The three southern regions will each be geographically subdivided into two areas; the north will be subdivided into three areas. Each of the two sub-regions in the three southern areas will have an area manager who reports to the regional director. The area manager will be responsible for all ministry funded and/or supervised services in his or her geographic area. In addition, each of the three southern regions will have one manager of operations reporting to the regional director and administratively responsible for all directly operated ministry services for the total region. In the north this role will be incorporated within the duties of the area manager.





The above is an interim arrangement to develop an organization which will facilitate the long-range goal of an integrated field organization.

Reporting to each area manager will be a number of program supervisors, drawn from a variety of backgrounds in children's services responsible for:

- program consultation, monitoring and inspection
- program development
- licensing
- case management
- community liaison and consultation.

The manager of operations will undertake full management and administrative responsibility for programs in the total region directly operated by the ministry.

Reporting to the manager of operations will be training school superintendents, probation and after care supervisors, corrections group home directors of observation/detention homes, directors of other ministry run facilities such as Thistle town Regional Centre.

b) The North

In the north the roles and responsibilities of the area manager and manager of operations, as discussed above, will be combined under one person, the area manager. This person will have the responsibility for both ministry funded but privately operated services and ministry operated services in the area. Reporting to the area manager will be both program supervisors and ministry service staff.

In addition, each of the four regions will have a manager of finance and administration reporting to the regional director who, along with his or her staff will be responsible for the following:

- regional financial monitoring, analysis and planning
- providing financial consultation to agencies
- assisting regional staff in budget negotiations
- processing financial claims.

Each region will also have a coordinator of planning, reporting to the regional director who, along with his or her staff will be responsible for the following:

- collecting, analyzing and evaluating data

- developing regional policy and standards
- coordinating with head office units
- coordinating of case management.

The Operational Support Unit will also carry out clients' record maintenance and document processing as presently done by the Training Schools' Records Unit, the Child Welfare Review Unit and the Child Welfare Records Unit.



* In the north regional office this position is a third area manager.

Divisional Head Office

The regional directors will report to the Executive Director of Operations, Mr. Peter Barnes. Mr. Barnes will report to the Associate Deputy Minister, Children's Services Division, Judge George Thomson.

Executive Coordinator, Program Policy, Dr. Clive Chamberlain, will continue to be responsible for the development of province-wide priorities and research.

The Standards and Information Systems Unit under Mr. Mike Ozerkevich will continue to be responsible for development of standards, guidelines and information systems.

A Finance and Program Analysis Unit under Mr. Richard Battista will continue to function at head office. This unit will report to the Executive Director of Operations, with responsibility for province-wide functions such as aggregation of regional budgets.

The Coordinator of Child Abuse and the Coordinator of Adoptions will continue to be located at Divisional head office reporting to the Director of Operational Support, Mr. Alan Leslie, under the jurisdiction of the Executive Director of Operations.

Consultation Meetings To Discuss Standards

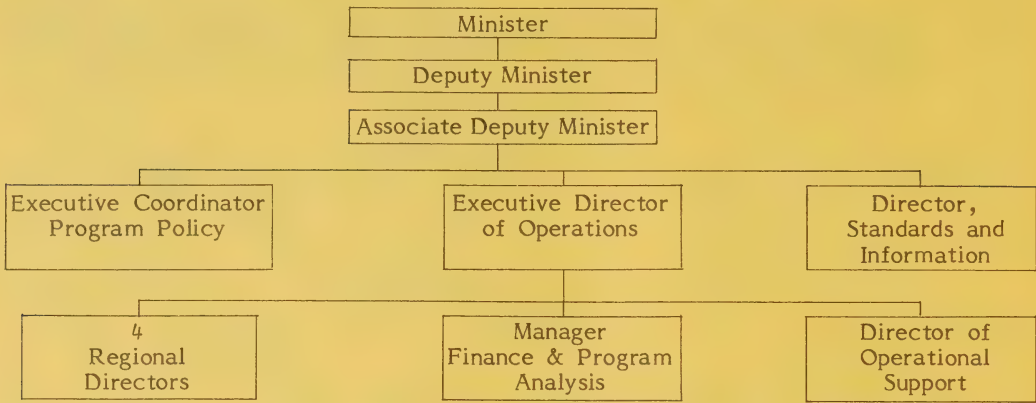
A series of meetings will be held around the province to discuss standards and guidelines proposed in the recently released consultation paper Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines.

The Children's Services Division is committed to consulting with service-providers on the contents of the standards which will eventually form the regulations of The Children's Residential Services Act. Since anyone providing residential care for three or more children will be affected by these regulations, the Division anticipates great interest by people in the field.

Standards are necessary to set minimum levels of acceptable care for children. Comprehensive standards will ensure that children and families are better served by:

- setting out requirements for the quality of care, continuity of care, and consistency in decision-making
- providing people working with children with a basis for determining how their own services measure up
- establishing means to improve accountability for service.

Children's Services Divisional Office Structure



- Child Abuse Coordinator
- Adoption Coordinator
- Clients' Records Unit

The consultation period will last until April 1, 1979. Several successful meetings have already been held where standards have been discussed with: The Alliance for Children in Toronto, the Southwestern Ontario Youth Resources Association in London, the West Central Workshop in Orillia, operators of children's boarding homes in Peterborough, and service providers in Waterloo and Wellington County.

Meetings will be held in the new year at the following places:

January: Ottawa
 Cornwall
 Kingston
 Belleville
 Oshawa
 Toronto
 Hamilton
 St. Catharines

February: London
 Chatham
 Thunder Bay
 Kenora
 Sault Ste. Marie
 Sudbury
 Timmins
 North Bay
 Barrie

Every residential facility will receive an invitation to one of these meetings within the next two weeks. If you have not received yours by January 1st, or if you cannot attend the meeting scheduled in your area and would like to go to another one, please write or phone:

Elspeth Hogg
 Standards and Information Systems
 700 Bay Street, 10th floor
 Toronto, Ontario
 M7A 1E9
 Tel: 965-0914

These meetings are aimed specifically at residential service providers, although anyone else wishing to attend is welcome.

Written submissions on the consultation paper are also invited outlining general observations and offering detailed comments on specific standards and guidelines. To help speed up the processing of your submission we would ask that you enclose a completed summary sheet. Blank copies of the summary sheets are available from the community liaison groups, the COMSOC district offices and the Consultation Task Force office.

The Division suggests that those with a common interest or concern set up committees for joint study of the material, and as much as possible, consolidate their written responses. If you wish to receive a copy of the consultation paper, please write to:

The Consultation Task Force
700 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9
Tel: 965-1891

Copies are also available from the community liaison groups or the COMSOC district offices.

**

Update on Local Children's Services Committees

On August 28, 1978 the Hon. Keith Norton announced the designation of four communities as areas to develop local children's services committees; the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the Regional Municipality of York, the Counties of Hastings and Prince Edward, and the City of Windsor and County of Essex.

Since then the four communities have designated steering committees to examine closely the questions of committee nomination and election procedures, work plans and budgets, and sub-committee structures. Because of the intervening municipal elections in November, it was determined that the full committees would not become operational until January, 1979. This will give new council members an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the goals and objectives of the committees.

Phase one of the developmental experiment will begin when the full committees become operational. In this phase the needs of children in the given jurisdictions and the available resources will be identified. Gaps and duplications in service will be examined as well as assistance for hard-to-place children. Municipal governments and the community will be consulted on future directions. Phase one is expected to last one year.

In phase two, budgets will be reviewed and preliminary priority-setting and planning will be done. This phase may last from eighteen months to two years.

Phase three, the final phase, will give the local committees responsibility for allocating of funds for children's services and for ensuring that children in the community have access to a full range of services. This final phase will begin following agreement between the Province and municipal governments on overall questions of funding and cost-sharing.

Independent external evaluators have been hired to monitor progress in each of the communities and to report to these communities and the Ministry on a regular basis. These evaluators, Community Concern Associates Ltd., of Toronto, will also submit a final evaluation at the conclusion of each phase of the project.

Membership on the committees in each area is a mix of municipal officials, service providers and community representatives. In Regional Niagara, the committee will report to Regional Council through the Regional Social Services Committee. In Regional York the committee will report to Regional Council through the Regional Health and Social Services Committee. In the Counties of Hastings and Prince Edward the committee will report directly and simultaneously to the two County Councils. In Windsor-Essex the committee will report directly and simultaneously to the City and County Councils.

The Division will be reporting on a regular basis to communities throughout Ontario on the progress of these first four local children's services committees.

**

Children's Services Legislation

by Judge George Thomson
Associate Deputy Minister

The amendments which represent the first changes in child care legislation under the new Children's Services Division will soon become law. Between now and proclamation date a great deal of work must be done to prepare all of those who will be working with the changes.

The package of children's services legislation introduced in the legislature last June has been through the Standing Social Development Committee and was given final approval in the legislature by the Committee of the Whole House. All that remains is third reading in the legislature and at time of writing, this is expected within a matter of days.

Assuming the bills have been passed when this newsletter is published, the intention is to put off proclaiming them for a few months, probably until April 1st, 1979. This will allow time for the development of regulations, forms, rules of practice and permit the Division to engage in extensive training of those people who will be affected by the amendments.

Over the summer a number of changes were made in the bills in response to feedback received after their introduction in June. For example, a section relating to children's aid society access to records was introduced, changes were made in the private adoption licensing sections, and the definition of "neglect" was altered to provide more clarity for those required to report child abuse to the Child Abuse Registry. These changes were presented to the Committee and, for the most part, were approved.

A number of interested associations and individuals appeared before the Committee to express their views and concerns. Almost all of those who expressed their views also indicated general support for the consultation process which preceded the introduction of the bills.

A number of other changes were passed at the Committee stage. For example, the provision relating to the appointment of lawyers for children was altered as a result of the second report from the Attorney General's Committee on Legal Representation. An amendment was passed which clarified the standard-setting powers of the Minister and the responsibility of the Minister to monitor the performance of children's aid societies in light of those standards. Another change will enable a subsidy to be paid in exceptional cases to provide day care services outside of school hours for children ten and eleven.

In the legislature, an amendment passed which will limit the power of the ministry to set clauses which must be contained in children's mental health centres by-laws to those which relate to the composition and formation of Boards of Directors. A great deal of time was spent discussing the issue of adoption disclosure. An amendment passed which will establish a voluntary register and permit disclosure when the adult adoptee, the biological parents and the adoptive parents have all signified their agreement.

Over the next few months a great deal of work needs to be done. A whole new set of regulations is being drafted under The Child Welfare Act. In addition, rules of procedure for child protection and adoption hearings are being drafted. These will include such matters as pre-trial hearings and advance disclosure of the evidence to be presented to the Court. A whole new set of regulations will be drafted under The Residential Services Act but this will not be done until after April 1, 1979 when the consultation period on the residential standards paper is over.

In addition, materials are being prepared which will be used to teach children's aid society personnel about the new legislation. The office of the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court (Family Division) will be preparing a training program for Family Court

judges. The Law Society will be sponsoring a two-day workshop for lawyers from across the Province. Court workers and lawyers who represent children's aid societies will be able to attend. The Interministerial Committee on Child Abuse will be developing plans to ensure that persons in other disciplines are made aware of the new child abuse laws.

At the suggestion of Doug Barr, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society, the Minister agreed to establish a committee of relevant persons (a Ministry representative, a judge, a children's aid lawyer, etc.) to monitor the effect of the new laws particularly as they effect the workings of the Court.

**

Feedback on Program Priorities for Children's Services in 1978

by Malcolm Shookner, Program Policy

The agencies, individuals and provincial associations that responded to the paper Program Priorities for Children's Services in 1978 generally supported the "excellent beginning made by the paper." The paper was released last May to describe the priorities of the Division for program development.

The Division's attempt to provide a balanced "spectrum of services", from prevention to family support to substitute programs, was welcomed. However, there was some pessimism from the people who responded to the paper about whether there will be enough money available to provide a full and effective range of services to children. They also expressed the hope that the good intentions described in the paper will be carried out in successful action. There was an expressed criticism that services for mentally retarded children were not included within the "spectrum of service" framework.

It was generally felt by respondents that there was insufficient input from the local level (particularly from consumers) in the development of priorities.

The paper identified prevention as the Division's first priority, and there was enthusiastic support for this. At the same time there was concern expressed about the narrow definition of prevention which was focussed on those at high risk of having problems. Broader social problems such as inadequate housing, unemployment and insufficient income were noted as important issues to be dealt with as part of prevention.

Day care was cited as a major form of prevention, considering both the needs of children and families. It was generally felt that more money needs to be allocated for prevention; at the same time funding for existing services must continue in order to deal with today's problems.

The Division's second priority is temporary restraint. It is described in the paper as promoting the development of programs to help children considered to be "out of control" to function in their home environments, with a corresponding reduction in institutions. The following concerns were raised:

- that services in the communities be better funded before returning children from these residential programs and institutions.
- that communities may not be willing to tolerate the disturbing behaviour of some children
- that diversion may be no more effective than other correctional programs in reducing the recidivism rate amongst juveniles.

Programs which provide intervention and support to families in a crisis were identified by the paper as the Division's third priority. Two ways of doing this described in the paper are promotion of self-help programs such as peer counselling, and promoting the use of volunteers in programs supported by the Division. The concepts of self-help and the use of volunteers were supported by respondents to the paper, though there was caution expressed that these not be seen merely as cost-saving measures.

The issue of reallocation of funding for crisis management was raised by some people. They felt there were limits to how much can be done by shifting money out of residential programs for these purposes.

There was considerable support for research and evaluation in order to increase the Division's base of knowledge about the best ways to provide services to children. One example cited was the need for research into the effectiveness of individual and family treatment programs. There was also a need expressed for research into the causes of some of the problems we are trying to solve through children's services. It was felt that we need to know more before we proceed too far in new directions of program development.

The feedback to the paper is being carefully reviewed and circulated to the appropriate people and programs in the Division. We at the Division wish to thank all those who spent considerable time and energy reading, discussing and responding to our first statement about program priorities for children's services.

The next paper on program priorities will be published during the winter of 1979. It will elaborate on and refine the policies outlined in the first paper. The paper will describe the continuing process of selecting priorities. Increasingly these will be based on children's needs.

**

Progress Report on the Implementation of the Task Force on Child Abuse

To discuss planning and implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Abuse, Division staff held a meeting with the presidents and local directors of the children's aid societies on September 8th, 1978.

One of the major recommendations made by the task force deals with the need for written standards and guidelines for all CASs. Standards and guidelines for residential care facilities have already been developed and have been distributed for consultation. Other standards papers currently being developed deal with non-residential care, foster care, casework and casework supervision, prevention and diversion, information and records, and program evaluation and assessment.

Ross Dawson, Assistant Director of the Algoma Children's Aid Society, has completed the updated guidelines for the management of child abuse cases. These guidelines have been reviewed and adopted by the Division, and are now in the process of being developed into standards.

Further sets of guidelines now almost completed are those on the requirements for after-hour service, on CAS use of lawyers, and on the participation of multi-disciplinary teams in handling child abuse cases. In addition, the Division is working with the Ministry of the Solicitor General to explore ways of encouraging and supporting local police/CAS co-operation. The Division has also consulted with the Ministry of Health to promote the co-operation of hospitals in reporting suspected abuse and in participating on inter-disciplinary teams. Further consultations are planned with the Ontario Hospital Association.

The work of the committee preparing guidelines for apprehension continues. Development of explicit standards of care, and the factors that should be considered in the decision to apprehend is progressing, and a report will be published early next year.

The ministry is committed to a major thrust in training and development programs. Such programs will be held for CAS front-line workers and supervisors, as well as for foster parents of specialized homes. To assist CASS in handling child welfare cases in court, particularly child abuse cases, the Division is sponsoring regional court workers workshops. (For further information on training programs see story on page 13).

To facilitate the increased monitoring of the CASS recommended by the Task Force Report, Child Welfare Field Consultant staff will be increased and operational reviews and financial audits of CASS will be carried out.

At the present time, work is being done to outline a staff procedure for handling serious and contentious cases, including child abuse cases when they are referred to the Division. In addition, a program manual for CASS is being assembled which pulls together all policy, procedural statements and directives relating to child welfare.

In implementing some of the task force's recommendations, the Division is becoming increasingly involved with the Interministerial Committee on Children's Services. Recommendations calling for inter-disciplinary participation and for abuse training content in the curricula of professional schools are being discussed by the committee. A current project of each ministry is examination of training programs for each of its constituent agencies or services, and how child abuse education might best be introduced into each ministry's program.

**

We would like to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please write: The Editor, Consultation Task Force, 12th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

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Si vous désirez une copie française de ce communiqué, veuillez en faire la demand à: Consultation Task Force, 12th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments	226	passed*
Local Children's Services Committees	53	passed**
Information Systems Development	10	passed
Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines	1	April 1, 1979

* See story on page 8
 ** First four committees selected

Evaluation of Consultation

The consultation process, on the whole, is well accepted, according to a study recently completed evaluating the consultation process in the Children's Services Division. Input was received from a random sample of newsletter readers, as well as organizations and agencies working in the field of children's services.

Of those surveyed, 60 percent said they felt fully informed about what is happening in children's services, while 22 percent didn't feel fully informed.

The newsletter appeared to be the most successful component of the consultation process. About 95 percent of those sampled received copies; 94 percent said it keeps them up-to-date. Its readability received an above average score, (2.2 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very easy to read and 5 being difficult to read). Criticisms of the newsletter included comments that the page was too long and should be shortened and that larger type should be used. Both these changes have already been made.

Many of the people surveyed had requested copies of consultation papers. Of those who responded to the papers, about 50 percent felt their responses had been fully considered by government, 37 percent weren't sure, and 5 percent felt their responses hadn't been considered.

About half of the sample had contact with community liaison groups, but many people were confused about the role of these groups. (With the reorganization of the ministry, a clear statement will be made on the roles and responsibilities of the community liaison groups).

There was some criticism of the consultation papers themselves. Some felt the language was too technical (especially the paper Information Systems Development) and that the papers would be more valuable if the language were simplified. Another often heard suggestion was that the response time be lengthened to give the public a chance to study the papers fully before responding to them.

Update Paper Available on Information Systems Development

A paper has been written by the Standards and Information Systems Group entitled Update on Information Systems Development. The paper deals with a number of issues raised by people who responded to The Consultation Paper on Information Systems Development. It also describes the present status and proposed design of specific projects outlined in the consultation paper.

More specifically, issues dealt with in this paper include:

- the need for data collection in the children's services delivery system
- the benefits of the modular approach in data collection
- individual service organizations in-house information systems
- cost systems separated from statistical systems in design
- the consultation process and the role of the Information Systems Task Force
- confidentiality of personal information
- the tracking system, benefits versus drawbacks.

Project updates describe the current status of the following:

- case history locator (tracking) project
- placement assistance system (residential service directory)
- children's mental health services information system (CHMSIS).

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this paper can do so by writing:

Christine Macartney
Standards and Information Systems
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9
Tel: 965-8067

New Training Programs Developed for CAS Staff and Foster Parents

In an attempt to assist children's aid societies (CASs) in providing services to children, several new staff development and training programs are being sponsored by the Children's Services Division. Earlier in the year, the research undertaken for the Task Force on Child Abuse indicated the need for additional training for CAS staff and foster parents. This need had been recognized by the Division, and by the Societies, but the task force report gave the impetus to act promptly.

A series of court worker workshops are either currently underway or have already been held in each region across the province. These are two-day seminars involving CAS court workers, local police, lawyers and judges. Topics include: investigation of complaints, preparation of evidence and presentation of cases in court. The aim is to help those involved develop technical skills related to the court process. The Law Society of Upper Canada will also be holding workshops on child protection in the spring which court workers can attend.

Another program in the planning stages is for CAS supervisors and front-line workers. In order to determine exactly what training these two groups require, a firm of educational consultants has been hired to advise the Division. The joint Ministry/Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) staff training committee is involved in developing the criteria for selection of trainers and in the general design of the program. Front-line workers and supervisors, on a sample basis, will provide major input for development of the curriculum.

Others to be involved in developing the curriculum include those presently involved in staff training, administrators, and child welfare personnel. Core material for the program will be the newly updated guidelines for the management of child abuse cases.

Foster parents in specialized homes, that is, homes looking after children with special needs such as abused children, will also receive training. It is anticipated that an average of four homes in each Society will be included in this intensive fourteen-session program, which is planned to begin in the spring of 1979.

An evaluation component is being built into the training programs (with the exception of the court workers workshops) to determine how successful the programs have been.

A further series of sessions is planned to discuss implementation of the new legislation. These sessions will include all staff of the CASs and will be completed prior to proclamation of the legislation (see story on page 8). It is expected that follow-up sessions will be held several months after the legislation has been in place to discuss problems and concerns that may be evident.

**

New Ministry Newsletter to be Launched

The Ministry of Community and Social Services will publish the first issue of its new newsletter Dialogue shortly. The newsletter will be sent to all ministry employees, staff at local and district offices, and facilities such as training schools, and children's mental health centres.

Fifteen thousand copies of the newsletter will be distributed. It will be published quarterly this fiscal year, and every two months in the next fiscal year.

The aim of Dialogue is to provide an internal communications link for ministry employees. With a ministry as large and diverse as this one, there is a need for such communication. Articles will feature activities in all aspects of the ministry, from child abuse to senior citizens, from both the field and head office operations.

Anyone wishing to contribute stories about and from the ministry should write to: DIALOGUE, Community and Social Services, 7th Floor, Hepburn Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9.

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Prevention of Mental Retardation Campaign Scheduled For International Year of the Child

As part of its effort in 1979, the International Year of the Child, the Ministry of Community and Social Services will mount a campaign to increase public awareness of ways to prevent mental retardation. Between January and March, the Ministry will spend \$300,000 on prime-time television ads, brochures and pamphlets aimed at both the general public and professionals.

The goals of the campaign are:

- to inform the public that some types of mental retardation can be prevented
- to stress that we all have a responsibility in that prevention
- to present concrete suggestions as to how that prevention can be accomplished.

The focus of the campaign will be on pre-birth advice on how the potential for mental retardation can be reduced. Pregnant women will be urged to stay away from smoking and drinking. Studies have shown that overuse of these substances in pregnancy can lead to low birth weight and prematurity, which in some cases is linked with mental retardation. Pregnant women will also be urged to eat properly and see their doctors regularly, as the mother's health affects the development of the fetus.

The print portion of the campaign will inform that there are things we can do for infants too. The value of providing a stimulating environment will be discussed. This advice is for the benefit of all children, but will be of particular help to those at a risk of suffering from mental retardation.

Stimulation consists of such things as providing a visually interesting environment, a change of scenery from time to time, interacting, holding and talking to the baby frequently. There is evidence to suggest that a newborn thrives on a high degree of attention.

In addition to the major messages of the campaign described above, other topics such as effects and prevention of rubella (German measles) will be developed in the pamphlets.

This is the largest program of this nature ever to be run in Ontario. Research will be done before the campaign begins on attitudes and awareness, and again after the campaign ends to determine how successful it was in increasing awareness of prevention of mental retardation.

The ministry's aim in the International Year of the Child is to help every child be as well-born as possible. Although a campaign of this nature will not eliminate mental retardation as there are still too many unknowns, hopefully it will help avoid some of the "preventable" cases.

Report on Attitudes and Experiences Related to Child Abuse Available

A report commissioned by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and prepared by Dr. Donna S. Lero and Susan De Rijcke-Lollis of the University of Guelph will be available in January.

Early childhood educators and people providing private home day care were surveyed on their knowledge, attitudes and experiences related to identifying and handling child abuse cases. These people are an important target group because of their early and widespread involvement with young children.

Based on the findings of this survey, the ministry is preparing curriculum material on child abuse for both in-service training and community college programs in early childhood education.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this report can do so by contacting: The Consultation Task Force, 12th Floor, 700 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

**

Mail Strike Woes

Did you receive two newsletters in October?

Issue No. 7 was the regular edition of the newsletter, and issue No. 8 was a special edition on the consultation paper Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines. If you did not receive one or both of these issues and would like replacement copies, please contact: The Consultation Task Force, 12th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

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Paper on Assessment to be Published Soon

A paper on assessment of children has been prepared by the Children's Services Division and will be released in the coming weeks. It will identify the basic common elements of the assessment process, and will develop a framework for assessment which reflects the philosophy of the Division.

Assessment of a child is done to determine the type of assistance he or she requires. The first step is to assess the problems presented, the second is to formulate an understanding of that problem and its causes, and the third is to explore possible options for the child and family.

When the Division was created, various programs and services dealing with children were brought together. Naturally, they all differed in their approaches to service provision, and the process of assessing children also differed greatly. Differences can be attributed to variation in legislated mandate, identified target population, nature of the service provided, and professional orientation and tradition.

The paper was written keeping in mind the varying traditions and responsibilities of the child welfare, children's mental health, and juvenile corrections service streams. Hopefully, it will stimulate discussion among these service streams which will contribute to the development of a unified approach to assessment.

A future issue of this newsletter will describe the contents of the paper in greater detail and indicate when it will be available.

**

Children's Services in the North by Sandy Lang, Consultant

Working Groups

As a result of the Northern Priorities Task Force and the Division's commitment to local decision-making, working groups have been established in all nine northern districts. These working groups will participate in the decision-making process for program development in the north.

They are composed of a wide cross-section of people living in these districts including judges, public health nurses, directors of observation/detention homes, children's aid societies, mental health units, representative of native groups, francophone groups, police and volunteers, probation/after care, COMSOC District office representatives, and mental retardation working group representatives. The mandate of the working groups is to take the recommendations of the Northern Priorities Task Force and determine if they are consistent with their own perceived needs of the districts.

In some districts where money had been allocated for program development, consultant co-ordinators were provided to work directly with the working groups to help them establish priorities, plan and develop proposals for programs.

Projects Funded

A number of projects have been approved by the working groups and include the following short-term projects:

- Children's Aid Society summer programs in Kapuskasing, Timmins, Parry Sound, Algoma, Sudbury
- summer prevention projects in Englehart, Casey Township, Kirkland Lake, Schreiber
- telecare program, Geraldton
- Big Sisters Association, community outreach
- children's services directory, Thunder Bay
- life skills prevention program, Atikokan
- parent relief and community resource centre, Manitouwadge
- research projects, Elliot Lake and District of Nipissing
- co-op nursery school, Wabigoon

Two new programs are underway in the District of Kenora:

- 1) On August 1, the Anish Nabequek Society opened a residential assessment unit in Sioux Lookout. The home, funded through the Northern Priorities Implementation Group, is providing assessment and diagnostic service to children from the remote northwest region of the province. Until recently the lack of resources for children in this area of the province often resulted in their being transported hundreds of miles from home to have their needs assessed. With the opening of this home which operates in co-operation with staff and facilities of the local zone hospital, it is now possible for children to be assessed in their own region.

The ongoing development of foster homes on reserves and the group home program in the region ensures that children in need of alternative care receive it within the context of their own culture.

- 2) The other program geared at prevention, is located in the Vermilion Bay area near Dryden. This area has experienced a lot of social disruption, and suicide among young people is a serious problem. This three-year demonstration program will provide the services of a community service worker to liaise with various social agencies as well as to develop community groups for single parents, parent training workshops, alcohol and drug abuse services, etc..

In addition, recreational activities for children within a fifty mile radius will be established. Since many of the children in the area are bussed to school and back every day, they do not have the opportunity to participate in after-hours recreational activities at school. This program will allow them to participate in such activities as a distraction from illegal or harmful acts.

Another three-year demonstration project sponsored by the Division, and the Federal Government, in conjunction with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres is geared at prevention. Delinquency counsellors are being hired for the Li'l Beavers program, a native youth group program for children from six to eighteen. The centres in the north which will have delinquency counsellors are in:

Kenora	Sudbury
Red Lake	Sault Ste. Marie
Sioux Lookout	North Bay
Fort Frances	Parry Sound
Thunder Bay	Cochrane
Geraldton	

Also, in the Districts of Thunder Bay and Kenora, local boards are actively engaged in the establishment of observation/detention homes.

**

New Appointments

Mr. Gordon McLellan, a senior official in the Children's Services Division, has been appointed as Co-ordinator of Consultant Services. His duties will include responsibility for a group of senior consultants offering program and policy consultation to the Division. He will also from time to time co-ordinate policy reviews, and is currently working with a team preparing a day care policy paper.

In addition, Mr. McLellan will be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Abuse, and for ensuring appropriate liaison with provincial organizations and professional bodies. He will also represent the Children's Services Division on the Interministerial Committee on Children's Services.

Mr. Doug Finlay, who previously worked with the Interministerial Committee on Children's Services has been reassigned to work on special projects within the Division e.g., a study to determine the future of White Oaks Village, a residential children's mental health centre.

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Report of the Task Force on Family Court Clinics

Copies of The Report of the Task Force on Family Court Clinics are now available from: The Consultation Task Force, 12th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

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Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division



1979 International
Year of the Child



Vol. 3, No. 2, March, 1979

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Key Staff Named to Regions

The decentralization of responsibility and authority for service delivery to regionally located staff is well underway in the Children's Services Division. It is scheduled to be completed by April 1, 1979.

Area managers and managers of operations for all four regions have now been appointed. They report directly to the regional directors.

Each area manager will be responsible for all ministry-funded and/or supervised services in his or her geographic area.

The manager of operations will undertake full management and administrative responsibility for all ministry operated programs in each region.

Staff and location of offices are:

Central Region

Regional Director - Dr. Ken Beck

Regional Office - Toronto

Area Offices - Barrie, Toronto

Area Managers

- Bruce Heath (Toronto)
- Ray Lazanik (Barrie)

Manager of Operations - Agnes Samler (Toronto)

Southeast Region

Regional Director - Ken Macdonald

Regional Office - Kingston

Area Offices - Peterborough, Ottawa

Area Managers

- Gerald Duda (Kingston)
- Alan Vallillee (Peterborough)

Manager of Operations - Klaas Meyer (Ottawa)

Southwest Region

Regional Director - Dr. Gillian Doherty

Regional Office - London

Area Offices - Hamilton, London

Area Managers

- Ron Childs (Hamilton)
- Michael Ennis (London)

Manager of Operations - David Waters (Kitchener-Waterloo)

North Region

Regional Director - Valerie Gibbons

Regional Office - Sault Ste. Marie

Area Offices - Timmins, Thunder Bay, Sudbury

Area Managers

- Al Johnston (Sudbury)
- Roger Meskis (Thunder Bay)

(The area manager for Timmins has not yet been appointed)

A future issue of this newsletter will provide addresses and telephone numbers of regional staff when available.

Feedback on Residential Standards

Consultation meetings are being held across the province to discuss the paper Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines. The response to the consultation paper has been mixed. In general, people support the standards and agree with the rationale for standards set out in the consultation paper.

However, some people are critical of the document. They feel that the extensive standards and guidelines indicate excessive government interference in the provision of child care. One criticism is that too much documentation will be required from the facilities. Another is that the Division will have too much control over what goes on in the facility (e.g., treatment, discipline, grievance procedure).

Overall, the consultation meetings have given Division staff an opportunity to discover which standards are unclear or not measurable, and an idea of the order in which standards could be phased in.

Here are some examples of the major issues discussed:

Children's Rights - many front-line workers question this principle and worry that older manipulative fifteen and sixteen-year-olds will use "children's rights" to thwart program aims and take control.

Plan of Care - there is considerable support for this standard which requires every child in a program to have an individualized plan of care, and involves the child in decision-making. Professionals, however, question whether a disturbed child can give or withhold valid consent to treatment.

Discipline, Punishment and Control - this standard does not permit corporal punishment, verbal abuse or emotional deprivation. Some workers feel that if this is enforced, the older aggressive boys who were formerly sent to training school will be impossible to handle.

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments	226	passed*
Local Children's Services Committees	53	passed**
Information Systems Development	10	passed
Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines	15	April 30, 1979***
* Legislation to be proclaimed June 1, 1979		
** First four committees now under development		
*** Extended from April 1, 1979		

Treatment Strategies - this standard requires every facility to provide the Division with written treatment strategies. Some people felt this would constitute excessive government interference in the field of professional responsibility. But their concern is removed when they learn it relates to the overall program, not services provided to each individual child.

Human Resources - most people approve the competency-based approach to hiring direct-care workers and their supervisors (looking at whether a person can do the job required, rather than basing a decision on training or experience alone).

Funding - programs will need more money to implement the standards and guidelines. Operators of residential facilities want to know if money is available from government, how much is available, and for whom and what is it available? (Division staff are now costing the standards using information received from residential facilities in the recent survey of residential facilities. The cost factor will be considered before a final decision is made on implementation of standards).

Monitoring Review - in general people think the idea of monitoring facilities to ensure compliance with the standards is sound but could be very costly. They question whether that money shouldn't be put into programs

instead. Others are concerned that a peer review process involves fellow agencies or workers in what is essentially a government licensing process, and believe the confusion of roles between licensing and program support is unwise.

In all consultation meetings, Division staff have stressed that the proposed standards and guidelines will be revised based on the input received from all concerned. The consultation period has been extended to April 30, 1979.

Division Acts on Standards Concerns

Although the consultation period for residential standards does not end until April 30, the Division is already acting on some of the feedback heard at consultation meetings. Foster parents and organizations with family type residences have indicated that the residential care standards as currently written are inappropriate for them. As a result, the Division is working to develop new residential care standards for these homes.

The major concerns of the foster homes include the following:

- the standards are geared to more formalized programs
- the large amount of written documentation required

- the fire safety standards are inappropriate for family type homes.

A new set of standards will be written for parent type residences with approximately three to six unrelated children (the exact number of children remains to be finalized). During March, Division staff will hold meetings with foster parents' associations to discuss their concerns. A paper proposing standards for these homes and placement agencies will be sent out for consultation before the standards are finalized.

CAS Reviews Begin

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has recently initiated the first three operational reviews of Children's Aid Societies. Eleven such reviews will be undertaken this year. The Honourable Keith Norton announced last fall that the operations of all fifty Children's Aid Societies will be reviewed during the next five years as part of the ministry's overall program to improve children's services in Ontario.

A steering committee chaired by Michael Ozerkevich, Director, Standards and Information Systems, has been guiding the development of the review approach. Also on the committee are ministry and agency representatives, and the Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, George Caldwell.

The operational reviews will assist the agencies and ministry in working together to provide more effective and efficient services. Each agency would develop a work plan on the basis of the information and recommendations arising from the comprehensive review of their organization.

Three major areas will be examined, with the focus on operations of the agencies. They are: 1) management 2) finance 3) program. These reviews will include an examination of the ministry's role in ensuring the provision of child welfare services and will provide an opportunity to further clarify and define its relationship with the agencies.

Reviews will be conducted by teams consisting of ministry staff, CAS representatives, volunteers and outside professionals.

Agencies selected for review in 1979, are: Haldimand, Hastings, Kapuskasing, Leeds-Grenville, Catholic Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, Norfolk, Peel, Prince Edward, Sarnia-Lambton, Sudbury, and Timiskaming.

At a recent meeting of the Hastings County Children's Aid Society, the Director, André Bergeron, said he welcomed the operational review of the society. "It's not a witch hunt . . . If they can tell me ways in which this agency can improve its services to children, that's great."

Legislation to be Proclaimed June 1

The amendments to children's services legislation will be proclaimed June 1 to allow all the regulations, forms, rules of procedure and training sessions to be completed. Several training and information programs for service providers, ministry staff and others are being held during March, April and May.

For Program Staff

To help service providers become familiar with the new legislation and ready to implement new procedures on June 1, the Division is doing the following:

The Child Welfare Act - seminars are being held across the province for Children's Aid Society staffs. Training manuals have been sent to all agencies.

The Training Schools Act - training sessions are being held for training school staffs and probation and after care workers in six separate locations across the province.

The Provincial Courts Act - training sessions have already been completed with staff of observation and detention homes.

The Children's Mental Health Services Act - guidelines to children's mental health centres will be provided.

Children's Institutions Act - guidelines will be sent to children's and charitable institutions.

For Internal Staff

Two-day seminars to acquaint Children's Services Division staff with the major changes in children's services legislation will be held during March.

For Other Ministries

Child Abuse - through the Interministerial Committee on Children's Services, the Division is co-ordinating training on identification and reporting of child abuse. Ministries involved include: Education, Colleges and Universities, Health, Attorney General, Solicitor General and Correctional Services.

For Lawyers and Judges

The Division is offering assistance to the Ministry of the Attorney General and the office of the Official Guardian to develop training programs for lawyers on separate representation for children (Child Welfare Act, Sec. 20). A training program for judges involving Division staff will be held early in April.

Looking at Foster Care

A paper presently being prepared by the Children's Services Division will recommend policy directions and program development activities for foster care. Foster care fits within the Division philosophy of normalization and deinstitutionalization, or placing the child in a situation as close as possible to a normal home environment.

Issues to be dealt with by the paper include:

- recruitment and selection of foster homes
- foster parent training
- how to improve retention of foster homes
- role and status of foster parents
- involving the foster parents, not only the social worker, in decision-making on behalf of the child
- support services for foster parents
- rates of pay for foster homes
- grievance procedures for foster parents who are dissatisfied with a social worker's or agency decision.

The number of foster homes in Ontario has been decreasing steadily. Fewer infants are available now for foster placements and older children are a less appealing age group for many prospective foster parents. The greatest number of children now needing placement are teenagers. The demands of looking after difficult teenagers, coupled with a lack of support services for foster parents, is seen as leading to higher rates of foster parent "burn out".

While comparative statistics are lacking, courts are seen as giving much shorter periods of wardship. This, together with the increased success of adoption efforts, means that fewer children stay in foster care for long periods. Many foster parents find the shorter periods of care less satisfying and more demanding, and so may withdraw.

A future issue of this newsletter will provide more details on the foster care paper once it is completed later this year.

Two LCSCs Name Chairmen

Since the locations of the first four Local Children's Services Committees were announced last August, the communities have been working toward making the committees operational. Steering committees have been developing electoral procedures, terms of appointment and committee tasks. Here is a progress report:

Windsor-Essex - inaugural meeting of the 21-member children's services committee was held on January 31. Joseph Comartin, a community representative, was elected chairman. The chairmanship will rotate annually among consumers, service providers and municipal officials. The committee is presently seeking an executive director.

Hastings-Prince Edward - a community-wide meeting was held in Belleville on January 31 where the role of the committee was explained by Judge George Thomson, Associate Deputy Minister. Seven people were selected to represent service providers and citizens. The committee's inaugural meeting was held on February 9, and John Clemens, council member from Hastings County, was elected chairman. The committee is now seeking an executive coordinator.

Regional Municipality of Niagara - a community-wide meeting was held in St. Catharines on February 22; Judge Thomson and Maurice Fraser, Commissioner of Social Services for Regional Niagara discussed the committee's roles. Six service provider representatives and two community representatives were selected. The inaugural meeting of the committee will be held in March.

Regional Municipality of York - following discussions between the ministry and representatives of the regional municipality, work on the committee is expected to begin in late March or early April.

Experts Advise on Child Abuse Program

Thirteen experts representing several disciplines have agreed to provide consultation and advice to the ministry's Child Abuse Program. They are meeting with ministry staff to develop proposals for the Child Abuse Program for the coming fiscal year. Their advice will also be sought on projects, research, training materials and public education materials.

The establishment of this professional group represents a more formalized way of using experts in child abuse than before. The Child Abuse Program has been seeking the advice, consultation and assistance of experts for the last three years. For example, the ministry sponsored an interprofessional seminar in 1976 at which 80 people from different disciplines examined the issues related to child abuse in Ontario. Recommendations from that group have served as a major guide in the development of the Child Abuse Program.

It is anticipated that additional experts will be involved in a rotation process which will periodically change the composition of the group.

The thirteen experts now being consulted are:

Inspector Ferne Alexander
Youth Bureau
Metro Toronto Police Department

Mrs. Ruth Barton
Kingston Children's Aid Society

Dr. Robert Bates
Pediatrician
Hospital for Sick Children
(Toronto)

Mrs. Pat Carson
Vice-Principal
Davenport Public School
(Toronto)

Miss Barbara Chisholm
Child Welfare Consultant
Toronto

Mrs. Margaret Christensen
Public Health Nurse
Forest

Mr. Ross Dawson
Assistant Director,
Children's Aid Society Sault Ste. Marie
and District of Algoma

Professor Bernard Dickens
Faculty of Law
University of Toronto

Dr. Peter Harland
Pediatrician
Kenora

Dr. Ruth E. Kajandar
Psychiatrist
North Bay

Dr. Donna S. Lero
College of Family & Consumer Studies
University of Guelph

Ms. Jacqueline Thomas
Nurse
Sudbury General Hospital

Professor R. Volpe
Institute of Child Study
University of Toronto

Clinical Resources for Courts

A Family Court Clinical Resources Committee has been established to encourage adequate clinical services for the courts. The committee is a result of a recommendation by The Task Force Report on Family Court Clinics. The task force developed a set of principles and guidelines applicable to any family court clinic or service.

The mandate of the resources committee is:

- to act as a catalyst in the development of adequate clinical services to the courts for performing assessments
- to advise and assist those interested in developing clinical services and make recommendations to the Division on funding and implementation of such services
- to promote a high quality of service.

The committee, chaired by Barry Lowes, includes judges, directors of family court clinics and ministry staff.

Anyone interested in developing clinical resources to serve the courts should contact:

Mr. Barry Lowes
Training Schools Advisory Board
2nd Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9
Tel: 965-1871

Integrated Nursery Programs

"Why does Billy walk funny?"

"Because one of his legs doesn't work properly. He was born that way."

That exchange could have occurred at any one of the integrated nursery programs run in Ontario. Normal children will naturally question visible differences in other children, but will readily accept them once their questions have been answered, according to Margaret Engel, a Day Nurseries Consultant.

An integrated nursery program has normal children as well as physically handicapped or mentally retarded children in attendance. Integration is not a new phenomenon, but has been increasing steadily over the years, says Mrs. Engel.

"We have the philosophy of normalization; this means very simply making a handicapped child's lifestyle as normalized as possible within his or her own community. The best way to do this is to put handicapped children together with normal children.

"Kids are great mimics," continued Mrs. Engel, "and if you expose handicapped children only to other handicapped children they will copy each other's unusual behaviour. Whereas, if they are with normal children, they have better models to copy. You may end up with a mentally retarded child learning to swear, but that's O.K. — it's the risk you take in a 'normal' children's environment."

Handicapped children benefit a great deal from being around normal children. Similarly, normal children benefit by being able to see and understand the handicaps of other people. It enables them to develop empathy at a young age.

Unlike many adults, children are not really that bothered by people who are different. At two years of age, children are barely aware of other children because they play by themselves. It's not until they are nearing three that they begin to play with other children, and therefore notice each other. If they have been around handicapped children for a while, they have become used to individual differences and do not react negatively, Mrs. Engel says.

There are now over twenty approved integrated centres. Each has a specialized teacher for every four handicapped children. The other requirements are a good program for the normal children, individualized programs for the handicapped, and accepting staff who realize the extra demands of having handicapped children there.

Nurseries with integrated programs tend to be happy places where each child, whether normal or handicapped, is valued for his or her own special qualities.

For further information contact: Mrs. Margaret Engel, Day Nurseries Consultant, 12th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-5095

Third Observation/Detention Report Released

"A Plan for Observation and Detention Services for Children in Ontario" was released by the Division in January. It describes a new model and distribution plan for detention in the province.

This is the third report resulting from a review of observation and detention services in 1977. The new model of detention described in Report Three emphasizes initial use of available community resources before consideration of detention.

Observation and detention is defined as a short-term pre-dispositional service to the court for children involved with the court who are a danger to themselves or others, and/or are unlikely to appear in court when required.

The detention service itself will have four levels varying in security, staffing, and program, and designed to meet the differing needs of children as follows:

- 1) Home Supervision - the child is remanded at home, under the supervision of a specially-trained observation home staff member who works with a maximum of five children at any one time.
- 2) Open Detention - the home operates as an open, residential facility with no capacity for structural holding.
- 3) Semi-Secure Detention - the home operates with internal and external doors unlocked, and emphasizes internal and community programming. There are two locked rooms available for a child who cannot be temporarily controlled in any other way.

- 4) Secure Detention - the home has its outer doors locked and the capacity for locking all internal doors if necessary.

Observation and detention services will participate in the assessment of a child by observing the child's behaviour and reporting to the court and by co-operating and liaising with the local clinical service providing the assessment.

Detention homes are currently centralized in several major population centres, mostly in southern Ontario. However, the redistribution plan in Report Three is now well underway and is attempting to:

- restructure detention services so that the ratio of services to children is fairly consistent across the province
- keep the total number of beds low and provide all four levels of detention in each of the regions of the province.
- reduce the number of secure detention beds by introducing other levels of service.

Seventeen new detention programs are being implemented that have been jointly developed by the Observation and Detention Branch and local community groups. They will be operated by these community organizations and funded by the ministry.

The first two reports described a system which was fragmented, lacking in resources, lacking a consistent theory and understanding of the role of observation and detention and with no uniform standards. Also, access to detention services varied considerably across Ontario.

A number of major changes have been accomplished since the review in 1977, including:

- implementation of new safety and security measures

- development of a new staff training program
- completion of a policy and procedures manual
- implementation of a critical incidents monitoring and follow-up system
- proposed legislative amendments to clarify the roles of the provincial courts and observation and detention services.

For further information or copies of the Observation and Detention Reports please contact:

Nancy Anderson, Project Manager
Observation & Detention Branch
110 Eglinton Avenue West
1st Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4R 2C9
Tel: 965-0232

**

We would like to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please write: The Editor, Consultation Task Force, 12th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

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Good Response to IYC

There has been an excellent response by provincial associations and municipalities to a letter from the Honourable Keith Norton encouraging them to participate in the International Year of the Child during 1979. Examples of the projects agencies are planning include the following:

- Catholic Family Services of Toronto will hold parent education classes.
- Manitouwadge Children's Services Working Group in cooperation with the local paper, Echo, plan to write weekly articles on children in 1979.

- The Sudbury Chapter of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind plans a public education campaign to reinterest parents in immunization.
- Wallaceburg Day Nursery plans a public education workshop for parents on a variety of topics relating to children.
- Sunnyside Children's Centre (Kingston) plans to hold positive parenting and child management seminars.
- St. Clair College Early Childhood Education Centre (Windsor) is planning a variety of projects including field trips with the children to expose them to as much of the environment as possible.
- Kitchener-Waterloo Habilitation Services for the Retarded is considering a mini-Olympics for their clients.
- Tillsonburg and District Association for the Mentally Retarded hopes to enter its group into the Special Olympics Program; to help finance this they have proposed a Skatathon involving normal children as volunteers.
- Raggedy Ann Day Care Centre (Barrie) is planning a volunteer workshop and open house.

According to the ministry's I.Y.C. Coordinator, Mrs. Mary Redgrave,

"As can be seen from the innovative samples given here, I.Y.C. project ideas are coming from the heart. Most of the groups who have responded to Mr. Norton's letter thus far have identified that they have not received nor do they require any special funds to carry out their project plans".

Provincial ministries are using the occasion of International Year of the Child to highlight projects specially directed at children and their families.

The Ministry of the Environment is producing a booklet that will help parents introduce their children to nature and to develop an appreciation of the environment. A similar manual will help people working with handicapped children.

The Ministry of Health has begun a neonatal screening program to identify infants with hypothyroidism which if undetected could lead to severe mental retardation.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is running a media campaign to increase awareness of what can be done to prevent retardation. The Ministry of Correctional Services is working with inmates and probationers to construct log climbing bars for school playgrounds, maintain ice-rinks, and transcribe school work onto tapes for use by blind students.

The Ministry of Culture and Recreation will release a "how to" kit to assist the development of fitness for disabled young people. A conference on fitness will be held this year involving youth serving agencies. In addition, seminars will be held for elementary school teachers dealing with fitness for young children.

Although the Ontario government is not funding any individual or group projects for International Year of the Child, there is some money available from the federal government. Requests for funding applications and criteria should be directed to:

Mr. Tom Schatzby, Secretary
Canadian Commission for International
Year of the Child
232 Chapel Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 7Z2

For further information on I. Y. C., contact: Mary Redgrave, International Year of the Child, Coordinator for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, 11th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario. Tel: 965-5339

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Ontario
Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division

June 1979

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Funding Increases Announced At Agency Budget Meeting

The Children's Services Division will receive a 9.9 percent increase in its budget for the 1979-80 fiscal year, the largest increase of any division within the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Ministry will have an overall increase of 7.6 percent.

At a meeting with representatives of funded children's services agencies on March 27, Community and Social Services Minister Keith C. Norton announced that from this increase the Children's Services Division will have \$15.9 million to initiate priority projects and expand ongoing services for children in Ontario. This amount is in addition to a basic 5 percent increase on present budgets generally available to children's programs.

"Approximately \$5 million of the \$15.9 million will be made available by reallocating within present budgets and by holding certain budget items within set percentage increases," he said.

Mr. Norton said that ministry policy is to shift funds away from expensive institutional care. Rather than reacting and helping children after the damage is done, it would be better to prevent the problems before they occur.

"We need to move towards community based care which is carried out by family, friends and acquaintances who are supported by professionals and away from merely paying others to do our caring for us . . . We need to move toward the creation and support of stable family and family type situations."

Increased funding will be provided to implement priority initiatives which will result in significantly expanded services.

A portion of the reallocated money being channelled to these initiatives will come from the budget of Thistletown Regional Centre, and approximately \$3.4 million will come from other large children's mental health centres (those with budgets of about \$1 million or more). In addition to the \$5 million reallocation, there will be a major reallocation affecting the training schools and probation and aftercare programs (see story on page 3).

Details of Initiatives are as follows:

1) Child Abuse:

a) Garber Task Force Recommendations (\$2.4 million):

- additional funding to societies to provide staff for high risk cases
- staff training
- increased legal services for societies
- upgrading of after hours services
- special foster care programs for care of abused children
- foster parent training programs.

b) Child Abuse Program (\$825,000):

- staff supplementation grants to CAS for child abuse
- new demonstration projects to test methods of identifying, treating or preventing child abuse
- professional training courses and material
- projects to assist communities in meeting specific local needs
- research projects.

2) Enhanced Foster Care (\$2.2 million):

- rate review and adjustment
- public relations campaign to promote foster care
- foster care project to develop specialized resources
- foster parent conference grant.

3) Francophone Services (\$500,000):

- continue to expand in this project area, initiated last year
- funds not restricted to any one geographic area.

4) Prevention (\$1 million):

- major policy paper nearing completion and ministry priorities and initial plan will be announced shortly, after consideration by policy field.

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments	226	passed*
Local Children's Services Committees	53	passed**
Information Systems Development	10	passed
Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines	64	passed

* Legislation to be proclaimed June 1, 1979

** First four committees in operation

5) Hard-To-Serve Children (\$500,000):

- expansion of contractual services regarding treatment and placement of youngsters requiring specialized care.

The changes announced in the Legislature on April 19 by the Hon. Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, are:

1) Kawartha Lakes Training School in Lindsay will close on July 31, 1979.

6) Advocacy (\$500,000):

- plan for use of funds to be announced in next few months, after consideration by policy field.

2) Pine Ridge Training School in Bowmanville will close on October 31, 1979.

7) Programs for Developmentally Handicapped Children (\$3.2 million):

- programs and services for developmentally handicapped children transferred to the Children's Services Division in April
- \$3.2 million for community accommodation and support services programs, including foster care.

3) Project Dare in South River will no longer be a training school. Its Outward Bound wilderness program will serve a broader segment of children on a year-round basis, not only training school wards.

4) Champlain Training School in Alfred will be reviewed; a program benefiting other children in the area, not only training school wards, will be developed, utilizing existing staff and facilities.

Some training schools have already been closed — Elmcrest school in Toronto in 1973, Grandview school in Cambridge in 1976, and Hillcrest school in Guelph last year. The training school in Hagersville was also closed and the wards were transferred to more modern facilities at the Sprucedale school in Simcoe.

Two Training Schools Closing

Two training schools will be phased out this year and two others will assume new functions as the Ontario government continues its policy to provide more appropriate care in the community for delinquent juveniles.

The need for training schools is diminishing with an increase in the use of group homes, a decline in the number of children between the ages of 12 and 16, and shorter and fewer training school committals.

The capacity of training schools in Ontario is approximately 850 children; only about 450 children are in training schools at peak periods.

"We will continue to place children in the community only when and where there is appropriate care for them," Mr. Norton said. "The closures I have announced . . . will allow us to reallocate funds to develop new alternative programs in the community. Group homes for juvenile offenders have been a feature of the correctional system for several years. We will continue to develop other kinds of community programs including specialized foster care and selective intervention which gives individual support to wards who are able to live in the community".

Most of the wards in Pine Ridge and Kawartha Lakes schools will have graduated by the date of closure. Any remaining children will be transferred to other schools. Classified civil servants at those two schools will be offered government jobs which utilize their skills and experience.

Funds For Francophone Services

Ten social agencies in Eastern Ontario will receive grants totalling approximately \$450,000 to improve services to francophone children. The Hon. Keith C. Norton, Albert Belanger, M.P.P. (Prescott-Russell) and Osie Villeneuve, M.P.P. (Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry) made the joint announcement in Ottawa on March 30. Ten program initiatives ranging from preventative to residential services were selected from twenty-five proposals from sixteen different agencies.

These grants represent the second phase of the ministry's commitment to meeting the specific needs of Franco-Ontarians. About \$270,000 has already been provided for mental health services in French in the counties of Prescott-Russell. The total amount of \$715,000 is being carried over into the 1979-80 budget to implement these proposals.

The following agencies will receive grants on an ongoing basis for French service development:

Mental Health/Multi-Service Team
Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry \$130,000

To establish a mental health team which will provide psychiatric services to the Cornwall area.

The Youth Services Bureau
of Ottawa \$38,675

To hire two francophone workers for their street work program dealing with troubled youngsters in the community.

The Children's Aid Society of
Prescott-Russell \$40,300

To develop a community-based prevention program through a community centre serving adolescents and their families in the Prescott-Russell area.

Catholic Family Services
of Ottawa \$28,890

To expand francophone counselling services to children and families. Parent groups will be taught the Parent Effectiveness Training approach to assist them in dealing with home situations.

Interagency Grant (Royal Ottawa Hospital, Children's Aid Society, and the Youth Services Bureau). The initial interagency grant will be \$60,425. Over the next four years total funding will grow to \$204,735 as funding committed to previously described short-term projects becomes available.

In 1979-80 the Royal Ottawa Hospital and the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton will receive approximately \$30,000 each towards French initiatives in their internal program development. As a co-operative liaison develops between these agencies and the Youth Services Bureau, the additional funds in following years will be used to provide a network of programs for French youngsters and families in the community.

The following agencies will receive time-limited grants:

Big Brothers of
Ottawa-Carleton \$28,500 for
one year

To hire a program co-ordinator to recruit Francophone volunteers to serve as Big Brothers.

The Catholic Guides of Ottawa
Diocese \$45,470 for
one year

To purchase staff assistance, equipment, books and films for resourcing of the Guide movement in Eastern Ontario.

The Scouts of Ottawa District \$27,500
per year for
two years

To hire a community worker to promote the French Scout movement in rural communities.

Catholic Family Services of Ottawa
\$25,240 for
one year

To hire a staff person to prepare a French language guide to Children's Services in Eastern Ontario.

The Social Planning Council of
Ottawa-Carleton \$17,500 per
year for three
years

To assist in the work of the French Language Service Bureau of the Council. Part of these funds will be directed to the French translation service which serves several children's agencies in Ottawa-Carleton.

Regional Offices Open

All regional and area offices are now in operation. As of April 23, program and administrative responsibilities were transferred there from the Children's Services Division head office in Toronto.

A temporary licensing and registration unit serving various children's facilities will be located at head office until about August 1, 1979. After that licensing and registration will be done in the regions.

Regional addresses, phone numbers, and names of key contact people are listed (see pages 11 and 12), separately for your bulletin board or information file.

New Appointment

Susan Waterfield has been appointed Manager Information Support Services, and will perform a key function in the Operational Support Branch. She will ensure good communication between the regions and head office, provide the regions with division-wide information, and coordinate information about serious issues.

Ms. Waterfield has worked in a variety of personnel, administrative and managerial positions in several Ontario government ministries for the past thirteen years. Her most recent position was Personnel Manager for Children's Services in this ministry. She is located at: 9th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-3111.

Child Abuse Films Feature Ontario Content

A series of films on recognition and reporting of child abuse have been prepared by the University of Toronto with the assistance of the ministry's Child Abuse Program. The films are designed for nurses, educators, physicians, social workers, and other professionals who may come in contact with abused children.

In the past, most films for training professionals have come from the United States. Now, for the first time, films are available dealing with the Ontario experience, including the role of children's aid societies in the handling of child abuse cases.

The films emphasize:

- the signs of physical abuse
- the signs of psychological abuse
- the economic and social circumstances that contribute to abuse

- the legal and moral responsibility of professionals who suspect abuse
- the skill of conducting a confronting interview with parents of a suspected abused child, leading to further professional intervention
- the importance of co-operation between the primary contact professions (police, educators, nurses, children's aid workers, physicians) in the first stages of intervention
- the continuing role of community and social service professionals in the long term.

The films, purchase and rental prices are:

1. An Unexplained Injury - the narrator, Patrick Watson, follows a specific case, enacted through dramatized episodes, commenting on the issues and the various actions and interventions by professionals. Length: 31 minutes, colour. Purchase: \$335. Rental: \$40.
2. The Pre-School Abused Child - the reporting of suspected child abuse is discussed and procedures for dealing with first suspicions in a day care centre are outlined. Length: 12 minutes, colour. Purchase: \$145. Rental: \$30.
3. The Abused Child in School - children who are physically abused have recognizable patterns of injury which Dr. Robert Bates of the Hospital for Sick Children outlines. The teacher's continuing role in the support and monitoring of an abused child is discussed. Length: 14 minutes, colour. Purchase: \$165., Rental: \$30.
4. The Police and the Abused Child - Constable Pat Lord of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Youth Bureau shows how the police, through their various contacts in the community are often the first to come into contact with cases of child abuse. The signs of physical abuse are presented, as well as some of the reasons parents abuse their children. Length: 12 minutes, colour. Purchase: \$130. Rental: \$30.
5. The Abused Child and the Children's Aid Society (CAS) - the involvement of CASs with all reported cases of child abuse is portrayed, as well as the interaction of CASs with abusing parents, police, hospitals and doctors. Length: 25 minutes, colour. Purchase: \$290. Rental: \$40.
6. Working Together - a discussion is shown between Inspector Ferne Alexander of the Metropolitan Toronto Police, Stan Fergusson of the Ontario Provincial Police and Janet Haddock of the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society on their relationship and ways of developing the most effective collaborative methods. Length: 19½ minutes, colour. Purchase: \$225. Rental: \$35.
7. Medical Diagnosis: Child Abuse - the importance of a physician's ability to recognize abuse and willingness to report suspected cases is discussed. Length: 28 minutes, colour. Purchase: \$310. Rental: \$40.

These films are available in 16 mm and as video cassettes from:

City Films Distribution Ltd.
376 Wellington Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 1E3
Tel: 869-1633

Training manuals for the use of the trainer or instructor are also available.

The Division is exploring a number of possible ways to make these films easily accessible to CASs, and child abuse teams in particular.

Training Program For Observation/Detention Staffs

Training of staff in Ontario's observation and detention homes is nearing completion. The program results from the first operational review of observation and detention homes which identified staff training as a high priority.

The first phase of training started in September and involved staffs of five homes in Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, London and Amhurstburg.

One program, for superintendents and directors, dealt with philosophy, goals and purpose of detention, understanding the legislation, and familiarization with administrative procedures and reporting relationships. Staff recruitment, selection, and program development skills were also covered.

Another program was for child care staff and covered child management techniques, the role of the prime worker, philosophy of detention, children's rights, and program development skills.

The next phase of staff training started in January and involved the remaining six homes in Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa, Oshawa, Barrie, Sudbury, and Bracebridge.

The third phase of training was done in April for directors of nine new homes in place but not yet operational in Owen Sound, Cornwall, Belleville, Kitchener-Waterloo, Thunder Bay, Chatham, Kenora, Toronto (two contract homes), Milton and Barrie. Staff in six of these homes also received training.

A fourth phase is being planned for the management and staff who have not received training to date.

Child Abuse Standards And Guidelines Released

Standards and guidelines relating to the handling of child abuse cases under The Child Welfare Act were released in April. They were prepared by Ross Dawson, Assistant Director of the Sault Ste. Marie and District of Algoma Children's Aid Society.

Topics covered in the standards and guidelines include:

- investigation process
- case management
- police involvement
- court involvement
- removal of a child (from a risk situation)
- return of a child
- the missing family (no forwarding address)
- "lost" children (cannot be tracked down)
- deaths of children
- case supervision
- case reviews
- termination of child abuse cases
- reporting to the ministry
- transfers (from one CAS to another or from one worker to another)
- record keeping.

Also included is a "Resource Kit" comprised of checklists and articles to assist workers in making decisions in the many problematic areas in child abuse case management.

These standards and guidelines represent good case management and are already in effect in many Ontario children's aid societies. Copies will be sent to all children's aid societies for discussion. In May and June, Division staff will meet with CAS supervisors on a regional basis to see if they have any problems with the standards. Changes will then be made before the standards and guidelines come out in their final form.

Local Services Coordination Urged

Communities are being encouraged to begin voluntary coordination of children's services at the local level. Such voluntary efforts will give people valuable experience in local coordination which will help them when the time comes to set up local children's services committees.

Presently, four different model local children's services committees are in operation. Based on experiences in these areas, it is proposed that local children's services committees be set up in all areas of the province at some future time. Committees will ultimately have the authority to coordinate, plan, evaluate and fund children's services in their own areas.

The experience gained from the Division's evaluation of the four models will be shared with community groups to help their own efforts at coordination. Consultation, advice, technical assistance and information will be provided by Division staff. Where necessary, some minimal financial assistance will be available to supplement locally secured resources.

Eight tasks have been identified by the Division which may be performed by communities for coordination of services to children. They are:

1. Identification of resources available in the community.
2. Identification of service utilization.
3. Identification of the needs of children in the community.
4. Review of the community's ability to match identified needs with resources available.
5. Review of provincial programs, policies, priorities in the light of community needs and resources.
6. Distribution of information collected to government, agencies, and the community.
7. Establishment of a communication network between the government and community, and within the community itself.
8. Coordination of joint program planning with the community.

A more detailed description of these tasks is available from: Walter Tuohy, Program Policy, 11th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-5339.

What does all this mean for children in Ontario? Certainly the opportunity for a child to be lost in the system will be reduced significantly with increased knowledge of the child's real needs and of local resources best suited to those needs. The goal of coordination is to bring the right parties together to collaborate in providing a unified and continuous program of service.

Assessment Paper Available

The Children's Services Division discussion paper on assessment is now available. The paper, Clinical Assessment in Children's Services, examines the basic common elements of the assessment processes, and is intended to help staff who carry case responsibility in services operated or funded by the Division. The paper can also be used for inservice training programs and in planning for assessment services. It will be of interest to judges, lawyers, agency board members and any others closely concerned with children's services.

Copies of the assessment paper will be distributed to all COMSOC area offices. They are also available on request from: Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891.

Developmentally Handicapped Children Now Responsibility of CSD

The responsibility for providing services to developmentally handicapped (mentally retarded) children and their families was transferred to the Children's Services Division from the ministry's Developmental Resources Division in April.

For several months, a small group of staff from the Developmental Resources Division has been preparing for the transfer of programs and services for developmentally handicapped children. John Webster and Jim Macniven have been seconded on a full-time basis, while Ellen Mills and Faith Mills have worked part-time.

They began by taking an inventory of all community programs for developmentally handicapped people and recommended which of them should be transferred to the Division. Their second task was to outline and prioritize those policy issues affecting such children.

Their third task will be to review the Schedule 1 and 2 facility services under The Developmental Services Act to determine the responsibilities of the Facilities Services Division, Children's Services Division or Adult Services Division with regard to policy and program development, and budget approval. The Facilities Services Division will continue to run these facility services on a day-to-day basis.

The Division's goals for the provision of services to developmentally handicapped children and their families are:

1. To provide for a reduction in the incidence and severity of developmental handicap.
2. To increase the extent of normal living opportunities for these children.

The underlying principles are:

1. Normalization - that a developmentally handicapped child and his/her family should lead as normal and autonomous a life as possible.

2. Integration - of programs for these children into the normal programming context so they are no longer a specialized segregated group or services.

One of the policy issues that will be addressed by this Division is funding of group homes under The Homes For Retarded Persons Act serving developmentally handicapped children. These group homes presently receive only 80 percent government funding. Paying the extra 20 percent is often a substantial burden for families or service-providing agencies.

Another important issue to be addressed by the Division is the development of an effective approach to case management and the coordination of services for developmentally handicapped children and their families. The case management program which exists now needs more continuity and provincial direction.

To look at these issues and program development, a small unit of three people will be set up in the Division's head office. They will be responsible to the Director of Operations, Alan Leslie.

The responsibility for funding and program implementation will move progressively to the regional and area offices of the Division. Each area will have a program supervisor specializing in programs for developmentally handicapped children. Eventually, there will be an integration of functions with other program supervisors.

Since policies affecting developmentally handicapped children affect several ministries, an interministerial committee has been set up by Deputy Ministers from the Ministries of Health, Education, Colleges and Universities and Community and Social Services. Issues the committee will deal with include health services, education, public education and program ethics.

We goofed . . . In our last newsletter we incorrectly stated that Dr. Ruth E. Kajander lives in North Bay. Dr. Kajander, a psychiatrist, and one of the thirteen experts providing advice to the Child Abuse Program, resides in Thunder Bay. Our apologies.

**

Camping Standards Being Developed

Standards affecting all camping programs funded by the Children's Services Division are under development. Once approved, the proposed standards and guidelines will be circulated this summer to outdoor/wilderness programs for assessment against their own programs. Thus, the Division will receive feedback based on actual experience in applying the standards.

More and more residential care facilities are providing outdoor/wilderness programs for children. In addition to the established camps, these programs range from camping in provincial parks, canoe or hiking trips, to spending time in a lakeside cottage. There is a growing interest in winter camping too.

The proposed standards will set basic minimum levels for program procedures and supervision, and staff qualification. They will also provide measures for health and environmental protections.

The proposed standards and guidelines will be divided into three sections:

- stationary camps (base camps)
- program activities
 - waterfront activities
 - canoeing activities
 - mobile camping (out-tripping)
 - winter camping
- human resources.

Once approved, the Consultation Paper, Standards and Guidelines for Outdoor/Wilderness Programs, will be circulated to all residential care facilities and to individuals and organizations who have expressed interest in its contents.

The Children's Services Division looks forward to receiving responses until October 31st. Representatives of the Division will be available to meet with any groups wishing to discuss the proposed standards and guidelines.

**

Si vous désirez le bulletin en français, veuillez en faire la demande à:

Group de travail pour la consultation,
12e étage, 700 rue Bay, Toronto,
Ontario. M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1891

**

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION
REGIONAL AND AREA OFFICES**

CENTRAL REGION

REGIONAL
OFFICE

Toronto	110 Eglinton Ave. W. 3rd Floor M4R 2C9	Dr. K. N. Beck, Director	481-6181
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AREA
OFFICE

Toronto	110 Eglinton Ave. W. 5th Floor M4R 2C9	Mr. B. Heath, Area Manager Mrs. A. Samler, Manager of Operations	965-9943
Barrie	70 Collier Street 5th Floor L4M 4Z2	Mr. R. Lazanik, Area Manager	737-1311

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

REGIONAL
OFFICE

Kingston	1055 Princess Street Suite 305 K7L 4Y3 (temporary location)	Mr. K. Macdonald, Director	549-6461
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AREA
OFFICES

Kingston	1055 Princess Street Suite 305 K7L 4Y3	Mr. G. Duda, Area Manager	549-6470
Peterborough	263½ George Street K9J 3G6	Mr. A. Vallillee, Area Manager	743-1624
Ottawa	900 Lady Ellen Place Suite 11 K1Z 5L5	Mr. K. Meyer, Manager of Operations	722-3494

NORTH REGION

REGIONAL
OFFICE

Sault Ste. Marie	875 Queen Street E. (The Old Bug Lab) Main Floor	Miss V. Gibbons, Director	942-2910
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AREA
OFFICES

Sudbury	111 Larch Street St. Andrew's Place 8th Floor. P3E 4T5	Mr. A. Johnston, Area Manager	674-7543
Thunder Bay	710 Victoria Avenue Suite 301 P7C 5P7	Mr. R. Meskis, Area Manager	475-1345

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION
REGIONAL AND AREA OFFICES
(Continued)**

NORTH REGION

Timmins	Cochrane-Temiskaming Resource Centre P.O. Box 1720 South Porcupine P0N 1H0 (temporary location)	Mr. K. Breithaupt, Area Manager	235-3363
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SOUTHWESTERN REGION

London	Children's Psychiatric Research Institute Box 2460, Terminal A N6A 4G6 (temporary location)	Dr. G. Doherty, Director	471-2540 (Ext. 321) (main switchboard)
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AREA
OFFICE

Hamilton	499 King Street E. St. John Place 2nd Floor L9C 5S3	Mr. R. Childs, Area Manager	525-6431
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London	Children's Psychiatric Research Institute Box 2460, Terminal A N6A 4G6 (temporary location)	Mr. M. Ennis, Area Manager	471-2540 (main switchboard)
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Kitchener- Waterloo	101B Holiday Inn Drive Cambridge, Ontario N3C 1Z3	Mr. D. Waters, Manager of Operations	658-5101
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Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

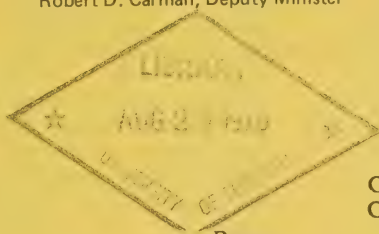
The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division



1979 International
Year of the Child

Children's Services



Vol. 3, No. 4, August, 1979

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Consultation Soon On Case Information Disclosure

The Task Force on Case Information Disclosure report will be issued as a consultation paper later this summer. The task force was appointed by the Children's Services Division to study ways to protect the privacy of children receiving service, while allowing the communication of information required to provide appropriate care and protection of children as well as others.

The paper proposes principles that would govern handling of case information and a framework for their practical application by agencies and other service providers. The policy and procedural concerns include:

- justification of the gathering and storing of information
- collection and recording practice
- consent to release and retention of information
- means of access to and disclosure of information
- transfer of information from one agency to another
- security measures
- retention and destruction of information
- protections and sanctions against breaches of desired practice.

The paper is expected to be of specific interest to agencies and individuals directly involved in providing service to children. It should also be of interest to those concerned with the protection of personal privacy and the effective operation of information systems.

Copies of the consultation paper will be distributed to all COMSOC area offices. They will also be available in September from: Consultation Task Force, 700 Bay Street, 9th Floor, Toronto M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1631.

Lottery Grants Available For Child-Related Research

Grants totalling \$200,000 in the current fiscal year are now available for child-related research. Another \$300,000 will be spent this year on special research projects being planned by the Children's Services Division. The grants money represents the first allocation of the Ministry's \$4 million from the Provincial Lottery. This is one of the Ontario Government's programs associated with the International Year of the Child. It is intended that additional lottery money will be made available for new grant funding on an annual basis until the lottery allocation is fully committed.

Research programs should be specific and with a fixed duration. Requests for grants for more than one year (with a maximum of three years) will be considered. Funding in later years will be contingent upon available funds.

The grants program will be administered by the Ontario Mental Health Foundation. All applications will be subject to the foundation's rules for project research, details of which can be obtained directly from the foundation (see address at end of article).

Research projects eligible for funding can involve any of the various services within the Children's Services Division:

- day care
- child welfare
- juvenile corrections and detention
- mental health
- mental retardation.

Research can focus on children with special needs requiring any of these services or a combination of them. (The research funds are not intended for major equipment purchases.)

Priority areas for research are:

1. Primary Prevention
2. Intervention Evaluations.

Research proposals are invited in these general areas. More specific interests within these broad categories are listed below to encourage research into important issues and/or with particular groups.

Primary Prevention

The Division's highest programming priority is development of services that prevent serious problems for children and families. Primary prevention projects aim to reduce the incidence of new cases in a population. There are two aspects of primary prevention: 1) focussing on modifying the stressful environment, or specific protection, and 2) strengthening individual capacities to cope with stress, or competence promotion.

Examples of primary prevention research projects which would be eligible for funding are:

1. Studies of the factors which reduce vulnerability and promote coping skills in children. Systematic studies of the "invulnerable" child.
2. Research on the core competencies in children, how they relate to each other and how these relate to interpersonal adjustment.
3. Identification of important environmental variables that affect the incidence of problems such as juvenile delinquency or sociocultural retardation, and the development of methods to reduce the incidence of such problems.
4. Determination and/or comparison of the effectiveness of specific prevention strategies with children identified as high-risk.
5. Assessment of the effectiveness of various prevention strategies such as family support models, self-help groups and neighbourhood networks.

Intervention Evaluation

Research is needed to test the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation strategies with specific disorders, disabilities, or problems.

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments (Dec. 1977)	226	*
Local Children's Services Committees (Jan. 1978)	53	*
Information Systems Development (May 1978)	10	*
Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines (Sept. 1978)	64	*
Standards and Guidelines for Outdoor/Wilderness Programming (June 1979)		October 31
* passed		

With the reorganization of children's services, there has been a concerted effort to describe the child in terms of his or her special needs rather than a professional service area. This shift has emphasized the lack of knowledge about relationships between the presenting needs and/or characteristics of the child and the most effective form of intervention.

Examples of intervention evaluation projects which could be eligible for funding are:

1. Outcome evaluation studies of the impact of specific treatment or rehabilitation strategies.
2. Studies based on differential treatment models assessing the most appropriate form or level of intervention for a particular type of child.
3. Studies of the effectiveness of different types of interventions with troubled children, e.g. comparing matched populations in terms of different types of residential care.

Collaboration is encouraged between the academic research community and the various agencies serving children with special needs so that high quality, relevant proposals will be developed.

Grant Applications

Anyone interested in applying for a grant should contact Margaret Clark, Executive Secretary of the Ontario Mental Health Foundation for a copy of Rules of Project Research and an application form at 45 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto M4V 1K9 (until August 31). Phone: 920-7721.

After September 1, the foundation's new address will be: 17th floor, 365 Bloor Street East, Toronto M4W 3L4.

Deadline for research grant applications is September 28, 1979.

Where other specialized funding is available (e.g. for drug addiction or child abuse), the proposals should be submitted to the appropriate organizations.

Residential Standards Being Revised

The consultation paper on standards and guidelines for children's residential care facilities generated a great deal of feedback. Division staff have since been working on a policy paper incorporating the results of the comments and formal briefs received.

To be ready this fall, it will outline in detail the final version of the standards and guidelines for residential care facilities, and will form the basis for the regulations under the new Residential Services Act.

Standards for foster homes and family-type residences are being developed separately and will be published in a consultation paper early next year.

Research Scholarship Available

The Velleman Foundation is offering a scholarship for an individual to undertake research in the area of mental retardation.

A candidate must hold an M.D. or Ph.D. degree. The initial award will be for three years with a stipend of \$18,000. Applications are due by November 30, 1979 with the award beginning July 1, 1980.

The Velleman Scholarship will be administered by The Ontario Mental Health Foundation. Applications should be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the foundation at 45 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1K9, (after September 1: 17th floor, 365 Bloor Street East, Toronto M4W 3L4).

Juvenile "Scared Straight" Project

The Ministry of Community and Social Services plans to run a one-year pilot project for juveniles based on the "scared straight" project at Rahway State Prison in New Jersey. Although there has been a great deal of publicity and enthusiasm about the Rahway experience, the Ministry is being cautious because of doubts about the success of the U.S. program.

The Juvenile Awareness Program at Rahway was begun in 1976 by a group of "lifers". It is based primarily on the shock approach. The inmates take an aggressive approach with the juveniles, using explicit descriptions of prison life to literally scare youngsters away from a life of crime.

Although an award-winning TV film called "Scared Straight" suggested the program was successful, a recent study by Dr. James O. Finckenauer of Rutgers University's School of Criminal Justice showed quite different results. Dr. Finckenauer found that of an experimental group of teenagers who had attended the Rahway program, 41 percent had committed serious crimes within six months. In contrast, of the comparison group without the Rahway experience, only 11 percent committed crimes in a six-month period.

A program similar to the one at Rahway has been operating in Millhaven Penitentiary in Kingston since the beginning of this year. Called Save The Youth Now Group (STYNG), the program is run by the Ten Plus fellowship, composed of inmates and community representatives. Young offenders from the Belleville area (16 to 18 year olds) have attended the program.

The experimental COMSOC project will be voluntary in nature and will also take place at Millhaven Penitentiary. Training school wards in Eastern Ontario will be eligible to attend for the first six months. During the following six months, a follow-up will be done to see what happens to the juveniles when they return to the community.

A researcher has been hired to monitor and evaluate the pilot project and report back to the Ministry at the end of the one-year period. The program will begin September 1.

Children's Boarding Home Rates Under Review

To ensure similar services are paid at similar rates, a review of children's boarding home rates began in January. At the moment, there is a wide variation in rates for similar services among the approximately 300 privately-operated children's boarding homes in the province.

As a first step, boarding home rates were frozen on January 1. The Ministry then issued the rates it was prepared to pay to each operator. Funding restraints held the maximum rate increase to 5 percent.

Boarding home operators can, however, appeal the figure set by the Ministry. Rate review committees, being set up in each region, will have the power to hold the rate set by the Ministry, increase it or roll it back.

The committees will, in many cases, be chaired by Division area managers. Other representatives will come from children's aid societies, probation and aftercare offices, and the community. The Division's Standards and Information Unit will play a support role by analyzing financial statements and collecting other information.

A boarding home operator requesting a review will need to submit a financial statement, a staff time and expenditure analysis, and program information. The rate review committee can grant an increase of more than 5 percent if the home shows hardship. Similarly, if the review finds the home is overpricing its services, the rate can be cut back.

Michael Ozerkevich, Director of the Standards and Information Unit, has been holding regional meetings to explain the concept to Ministry staff, service providers and representatives of children's aid societies.

Assessment and Training Materials Available For Child Abuse Workers

An assessment of a training package to assist professional workers in child abuse is now available from the Children's Services Division.

Entitled Assessment of a Child Abuse Curriculum: A Training Program for Ontario Professionals, the program has been adapted from materials originally prepared for the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The materials were tested in 19 Ontario communities. Some 250 lawyers, physicians, nurses, administrators, police, social workers and teachers helped assess the content and evaluate the program.

Curriculum of the program deals with specifics of identification, referral, reporting and, to a lesser extent, case management of children suffering from physical and sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment and general neglect.

The training package itself, called "We Can Help", consists of six bilingual synchronized slide/audio tapes, a printed curriculum and a trainers' guide. Sets have been distributed to all children's aid societies. The slide/tape material is available on loan from Modern Talking Picture Services in Toronto; Tel. 498-7293.

Copies of the assessment may be obtained from Consultation Task Force, 9th floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1631.

Law Change is IYC Project

As its International Year of the Child project, the Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society (Peterborough and Lindsay) is seeking support for its proposal to amend Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Currently, Section 43 says:

"Every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances."

The amendment would: prohibit the use of force against a child which results in physical injury or damage; eliminate misuse of the section to protect persons from otherwise appropriate charges of assault; eliminate the misinterpretations now possible; no longer support the use of force in the development of discipline.

Here are some examples of other IYC projects around the province:

- The Sunshine Co-operative Nursery School in Kingston is involving parents in a variety of activities such as play days at school and field trips.
- Oolagen Community Services in Toronto held a seminar for children's services professionals.
- Co-operative Nursery School in Richmond held a children's book fair.
- St. Mark's Co-operative Nursery in Scarborough has been running parenting courses.
- Sunnyside Children's Centre in Kingston is preparing a series of short articles on parenting for the daily Whig-Standard. They are also sponsoring a series of seminars on positive parenting to be held in the fall.
- Homestake House in Kenora plans to build at least one emergency receiving cottage; local high school students are making a Year of the Child plaque for it.
- The City of Kingston is sponsoring several IYC activities including a picnic for children of welfare recipients, and trips for pre-schoolers attending municipal day care centres.
- Dryden Nursery School Co-op is making a donation to the children's ward of Dryden General Hospital.
- The Department of Biology, at the University of Ottawa, is organizing a series of public lectures emphasizing the biology of children.

IYC Display

The Ontario Government is sponsoring a special IYC display to visit 22 cities in Ontario this summer. It highlights:

- observing traffic safety rules
- keeping immunization schedules up to date

- developing an appreciation of the environment
- maintaining proper dental care
- practicing positive parenting.

Newsletter, too

In addition the government has published an IYC newsletter to share information and community projects. Keith C. Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, is planning to distribute this newsletter to agencies. Single copies can be obtained from: Mary Redgrave, International Year of the Child Coordinator for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, 11th floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1E9. Telephone: 965-5339.

Project To Cut Data Duplication

A feasibility study now underway will eventually improve the statistical reporting systems used by children's services agencies by eliminating duplications and data that is no longer essential.

The Common Data Element project has launched a feasibility study of the various reporting requirements currently being used by agencies. It is planned by January, 1980 to have an inventory of all current reporting requirements. The useful and necessary elements will then be included in systems under development.

With the formation of the Division, agencies brought a wide diversity of statistical reporting systems to the children's services network. Some agencies are currently required to report the same information on different forms or using different methods to as many as six municipal, provincial, federal and other bodies.

In some cases, reasons for collecting the data has not been reviewed for several years and the needs of the organization requiring the data have not always been considered.

The Common Data Element project will also ensure the data meets the confidentiality requirements of systems development in children's services.

Admission Criteria Set For Observation/Detention Homes

Under the new Provincial Courts Act, admission to and discharge from an observation and detention home must be by order of a judge of the Provincial Court (Family Division) or of the Unified Family Court.

Based upon the principle of judicial control of admission, the Ministry has developed a comprehensive policy outlining the procedures to be followed by people using the detention service. Children admitted to detention without an order must be taken before a judge within 24 hours (or as soon as is practicable). The purpose of the hearing is to consider the need for detention.

The new policy calls for observation/detention homes to be used as:

- pre-dispositional holding units for children charged under The Juvenile Delinquents Act
- places of safety for children under The Child Welfare Act
- places of safety for wards of the Crown under The Training Schools Act who may have run away from their placement and are awaiting return to a training school or group home.

Ministry staff have developed a set of criteria for determining whether a child should be held in a detention home when the child is presented for admission without a prior court order. The criteria are:

- When there is evidence to indicate the child must be held in a detention home to ensure his/her appearance in court.
- When there is evidence to indicate the child will commit a further offence if left in the community.
- When the child's behaviour constitutes a danger to him/herself or others.

- If the child is between the ages of 12 and 16.
- If there is no other more appropriate setting available for the child.

If you would like further information on policies and procedures relating to the detention service, please contact: Anne Sheffield, Project Manager, 11th floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 1E9. Telephone: 965-4727.

New Funding For Children's & Youth Homes

Children's and youth institutions have a long history of providing dedicated, high quality care to children, but funding arrangements between the Ministry and the homes are inadequate, outdated and not geared to meet individual needs of each home.

These were two of the key findings of an independent operational review of children's and youth institutions recently released by the Ministry.

- One result of the review will be a simpler and more precise funding mechanism based on individual agreements with each home rather than the current fixed-percentage funding arrangement.

Terms for funding will depend on the amount of money a home can receive from full and part pay placements, private donations, the number of children it serves, the type of service it provides, and the number of staff required. Homes can choose the new funding method, or they can remain with existing funding arrangements.

The homes provide a wide variety of services for children with social and personal problems such as those having difficulties at home, unwed teenage mothers and juveniles in trouble with the law. The 64 homes in Ontario are all operated by independent charitable organizations and each raises part of its operating funds annually from its own resources.

The report recommends certain program changes, carefully planned bed closures and reallocation of some resources. Ministry staff will be working with each home to make some of these changes in the coming months.

Copes of Operation Review: Children's and Youth Institutions are available from: Consultation Task Force, 9th floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1631.

Amended Address

Address for the Timmins area (Northeastern) office should read:

Ministry of Community & Social Services
Children's Services Division
P.O. Box 1720
South Porcupine, Ontario
P0N 1H0

While this is a temporary location, the office is expected to remain at that address until March, 1980.

Research Information Report

One of the results of the Consultation Paper on Information Systems Development (May, 1978) was the establishment of a task force in the fall of 1978 to develop a proposal for a system to assist in the planning, research and prevention activities of children's services.

That task force, chaired by Christine Macartney of the Division's Standards and Information Unit, has now published its report. Copies are currently being distributed for consultation to agencies and associations involved in various reporting systems. In addition, a selected group of agencies from each region is being canvassed for their reactions. Feedback is due by September 30, 1979.

At the same time, the design of the system is being planned with early testing to start in the fall of 1979.

Implementation of the system is planned to begin in January, 1980. It is expected the first group to come on-line will be the children's mental health service agencies and selected agencies from other streams.

The new system is a modification of the present Children's Mental Health Services Information System (CMHSIS) and its purpose is to:

1. stimulate and assist research efforts by raising questions which could form the basis for research and by providing the initial base of information required of research
2. provide the Children's Services Division with a base of information to conduct analyses of children in care, facility usage and resource management
3. provide user agencies with relevant comparative data
4. provide user agencies with administrative and program evaluation information for planning purposes
5. provide user agencies with a uniform, unduplicated approach to data collection.

The task force developed criteria to ensure that all data collected are justified and confidentiality is maintained.

Components of the system include data on: community characteristics, child and family characteristics (both at program entry and exit), and agency characteristics.

Extra copies of The Children's Research Information System Task Force Report may be obtained from: Consultation Task Force, 9th floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1631.

Residential Directory Updated

The first update of the Children's Residential Services Directory, published in January, 1979, has now been distributed to those originally receiving a copy of the two-volume publication.

Future changes will be issued on a regular basis, but must be specifically requested.

If you wish to receive copies of future updates - or if you have not received the initial set of changes - please write to:

Directory Update
11th floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, M7A 1E9

Copies of the directory itself are also available and may be obtained from the Standards and Information Unit at the address above.

Regional Program Managers

Under the new regional system, liaison between the Children's Services Division of COMSOC and individual service providers is maintained by Program Supervisors located in regional and area offices. Here is a current list of Program Supervisors and their locations.

Unless specified, their responsibilities cover a variety of agencies. Details of specific responsibilities are available from the appropriate office.

SOUTHWESTERN REGION

London area (Mike Ennis, Manager)
c/o Children's Psychiatric Research
Institute, Box 2460, Terminal A,
London, N6A 4G6; Phone: 471-2540.

Robert Kreem
Marc Roberts
Barry Whalen
John Willms

David Earle - Developmentally
handicapped services.

Hamilton area (Ron Childs, Manager)
499 King Street East, St. John Place,
2nd floor, Hamilton, L8N 1E1; Phone:
525-6431.

Olga Danylak
Sam Morreale
Brian Shields

Elma Roberts - Day Nurseries
John Webster - Developmentally
handicapped services.

Kitchener (Dave Waters, Manager of
Operations)
101B Holiday Inn Drive, Cambridge,
N3C 1Z3; Phone: 658-5101.

Charlie Caudle - Observation &
Detention Homes
Al Tremblay - Group homes.

CENTRAL REGION

Toronto area (Bruce Heath, Manager)
110 Eglinton Avenue West, 5th floor,
Toronto M4R 2C9; Phone: 965-5340 or
965-9943.

Joan Brown
Ari Dassanayake
Gwen Davenport
Celia Denov
Beth Hoen

Margaret Engel - Day nurseries
Faith Mills - Developmentally
handicapped services.

Toronto (Agnes Samler, Manager of
Operations)
Fred Campbell - Observation &
Detention homes.

Barrie area (Ray Lazanik, Manager)
70 Collier Street, 5th floor, Barrie,
L4M 4Z2; Phone: 737-1311).

Steve Charko
Russ Daniels
Laurie Siirala

Alan Grills - Developmentally
handicapped services.

NORTHERN REGIONSudbury

North Central area (Al Johnston, Manager)
111 Larch Street, St. Andrew's Place,
8th floor, Sudbury, P3E 4T5; Phone:
674-7543.

Nora Dougan
Jim Pride

Barbara Cummings - Day nurseries
(Regional)
Cheryl Ward - Observation & Detention
homes (Regional).

Timmins

Northeastern area (Kirby Breithaupt, Manager)
P.O. Box 1720, South Porcupine, P0N
1H0; Phone: 264-9407.

Harry Dixon
Rejean Nadeau
Bryan Stanish.

Thunder Bay

Northwestern area (Roger Meskis, Manager)
Suite 301, 710 Victoria Avenue,
Thunder Bay, P7C 5P7; Phone: 475-
1345.

Shirley Caicco
Robert Cannon
Rory McMillan
John Rabeau.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Kingston area (Jerry Duda, Manager)
1055 Princess Street, Suite 305,
Kingston, K7L 5T3; Phone: 549-6461.

Kathy Cook
Zena El Ghatit - Developmentally
handicapped services.

The following two supervisors serve the
Kingston area from the Ottawa office
(900 Lady Ellen Place, Suite 22,
Ottawa, K1Z 5L5; Phone: 722-3494).

Pierre Lalonde
Ernie Nelson.

Peterborough area (Alan Vallillee, Manager)
263½ George Street North,
Peterborough, K9J 3G9; Phone: 743-
1624.

Angelo di Francesco
Bob Penny
Len Wilson

Margaret Kidd - Day nurseries
Jim Macniven - Developmentally
handicapped services.

Ottawa (Klaas Meyer, Manager of Operations)
900 Lady Ellen Place, Suite 22, Ottawa,
K1Z 5L5; Phone: 722-3494.

Laurent Couture - Observation &
Detention homes
Madeleine Roussy - Group Home Co-
ordinator.

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Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division



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Prevention: A High Priority

The Ministry has received approval to begin a series of tasks and funding initiatives in the development of a focused and deliberate prevention policy. This is the result of a study commissioned by the Children's Services Division and undertaken by Dr. Naomi Rae Grant, a consultant to the Ministry. The outcome of the study is a paper entitled The State of the Art: A Background Paper on Prevention.

Prevention Paper

One of the paper's major recommendations is that the Division focus its efforts on primary prevention to minimize the occurrence and recurrence of problems. Primary prevention aims at reducing the incidence of new cases in a population. It has two aspects:

- 1) efforts which focus on modifying the stressful environment, i.e. specific protection and,
- 2) strengthening individual capacities to cope with stress, i.e. competence promotion.

The paper describes the social and economic costs of trying to deal with children's disabilities after they have developed, compared to the cost of prevention programs. Despite the benefits of prevention, relatively little money or effort has been devoted to it for several reasons:



- There is little public demand.
- The causes of social problems are so numerous and complex, it sometimes seems that anything less than a complete reform of society would be futile.
- Until recently, it was difficult to measure the effectiveness of prevention.
- In the past it was not always possible to be sure which children were most likely to develop problems.
- Children have been regarded as the responsibility of their parents, and ensuring their optimal development has not been viewed as a task of society.

The social and economic causes of problems in children and families, the paper says, include: unemployment; poverty; separation and divorce; marital problems; remarriage of parents; insolation of families from their relatives; loneliness of big cities; life in disintegrating communities; moves from one part of the country to another; and immigration from another country.

The paper identifies some of the characteristics of children and families most likely to have serious problems. They are: poor health of the expectant mother; many children in the family; poor health of the child (at birth and in infancy); poor nutrition; frequent or lengthy hospitalizations; psychiatric disorders in one or both parents; marital problems.

A number of preventive programs successful in helping children of specific age groups are described. Other prevention programs have promise for reaching large groups of people through radio, television, special telephone information lines, pamphlets, parenting courses, regular and emergency child care, and assessment of children's strengths and weaknesses (cognitive, social and emotional) when they start school.

Because children who spend much time in hospitals, group homes or foster homes are particularly likely to develop further problems, every effort should be made to reduce the trauma of these experiences. The paper describes various ways that can be done.

The main policy issues connected with prevention services are discussed and various courses of action open to government and private agencies are reviewed.

A comprehensive prevention program that could be used one day in high risk communities in Ontario is described. A high risk community has a higher proportion of social problems such as high unemployment, poor housing, poverty, broken homes, vandalism and juvenile delinquency. Such a program could be sponsored and coordinated by a local organization or group and would seek the active participation of the whole community.

Because there are so many issues involved in prevention, the Ministry has decided to take a comprehensive approach in developing its policy and implementation plan. Six strategies have been developed by the Division which will be implemented by regional and head office staff.

Prevention Coordinator

The coordinator for prevention, Carol Orphanacos, is responsible for coordinating implementation of the Ministry's prevention plan, involving activities related to the following six strategies:

1. Prevention promotion and training. This will inform, assist and train individuals and organizations to accept greater responsibility for prevention. There will be public education programs for the general public and for high risk groups. Divisional staff and professionals in the field will also receive training.

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments (Dec. 1977)	226	*
Local Children's Services Committees (Jan. 1978)	53	*
Information Systems Development (May 1978)	11	*
Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines (Sept. 1978)	106	*
Standards and Guidelines for Outdoor/Wilderness Programming (June 1979)	2	Oct. 31
* passed		

2. Policy and regulation review. Existing Ministry and agency policy, regulations and practices will be looked at.

Through experimenting with all these projects, the Ministry's prevention policy can be further refined.

3. Prevention program assessment. This will test selected programs for high risk populations. About \$700,000 will be spent on program assessment beginning in 1980-1981.

In addition to working on implementation of the prevention plan, Ms. Orphanacos will be responsible for administering funds, coordinating all activities around prevention, and liaising with regional and area offices. Another person will be hired shortly to assist with prevention program development.

4. Prevention program development within existing agencies funded by the Division. This will encourage a shift of current expenditure into prevention activities. Supplemental awards totalling \$300,000 in 1980 - 1981 will be awarded through the Ministry's regional offices.

Prevention Material Available.

The following material is now available from the Division's regional and area offices:

5. Interministerial coordination. Interministerial prevention work groups will be set up to coordinate local project development and joint funding.
6. Problem indicator study. A special program will be developed for identifying on a county and community level problem indicators and high risk areas. Each region can then develop priorities for prevention.

1. The State of the Art: A Background Paper on Prevention.
2. Summaries of the Ministry's policy and implementation plan.
3. Pamphlets outlining prevention programs eligible for funding.
4. Guidelines and criteria for funding prevention programs.

The Division will commission epidemiological research using funds from the Provincial Lottery to develop a more detailed picture of the incidence of problems in the childhood population.

Child Welfare Study Released

A discussion paper Child Welfare in Ontario: Past Present and Future is now available on the present structure and accountability relationships of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies (CASs) and alternatives for the delivery of child welfare services for the future.

Prepared by a study group assisted by the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto, the study followed a hot debate with strong feelings both ways regarding the viability of the quasi-public structure of CASs and the criticism that they are not adequately accountable either to the governments which fund them or to the public they serve.

The study is divided into two parts. Part One traces the historical development of child welfare efforts. It outlines the present mandate, structure and relationships of CASs and discusses current criticisms and concerns.

Here are some of the concerns discussed:

- The relationship between the CAS and the provincial government has been marked by adversity and suspicion, aggravated by ambiguity about expectations and inadequate mechanisms for accountability.
- Relationships between a CAS and local government depend largely on the motivation and capabilities of the CAS board and the four local councillors appointed to it. Thus there is tremendous variation in the quality of relationships and accountability to local governments.
- Many CASs attach minimal importance to community involvement through membership and volunteer programs. Such programs seem to work best in urban areas.
- Few CASs reflect accountability to consumers in their structure. Consumers represent only 3.7 percent of the total CAS board membership. In at least 30 CASs, consumers have no recourse to the board if they have a complaint.

The study offers some suggestions for strengthening and improving the present system.

Part Two of the study discusses options for future administration of child welfare services. Four models are assessed: provincial administration, municipal administration, quasi-public administration, and local children's services committee administration.

Each option is assessed according to its ability to reflect six characteristics: accountability, advocacy ability, co-ordination, effectiveness, availability, and flexibility. The implications of each option are also analysed.

Ministry Response

In his response to the study, the Hon. Keith C. Norton, indicated the government has no intention of transferring responsibility for child welfare services from CASs. However, as children's services committees evolve, it may be necessary to re-examine the way all services are organized, including child welfare services.

The Ministry is working on several areas of concern raised in the study. For example:

- A joint Ministry/Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies Task Force has been at work for some time to rationalize funding mechanisms.
- Operational reviews of CASs, to be completed over the next five years, were begun earlier this year. These reviews will be used to promote sound management practices and will clearly identify policies and procedures that need to be changed or developed.
- Discussions arising from the model by-laws for CASs recently released by the Ministry, and from this study, should help to resolve many outstanding issues regarding the structure and relationship of all children's services agencies funded by the Ministry, including CASs.

Many of the issues raised in the study go beyond CASs and are common to other children's services agencies funded by the Ministry. Consequently, the Minister is asking that the applicability of the findings of this study be broadened to include all such other private organizations.

The child welfare study is available from: The Consultation Task Force, 9th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Tel: 965-1631. Comments and observations are welcome and may be directed to the Consultation Task Force.

Foster Care Paper Available

A paper entitled Foster Care: A Discussion Paper recommending policy directions and program development activities has been prepared by the Division. Copies are available from:

The Consultation Task Force
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9.
Telephone: 965-1631.

New Child Abuse Register Operational

A new register has been established by the Ministry to record the names of suspected child abusers in Ontario. It came into effect on June 15 as part of a package of legislation affecting children's services.

The amended Child Welfare Act makes it mandatory for the Ministry to keep a child abuse register. A suspected child abuser is first reported to the Children's Aid Society (CAS). No name will appear on the Ministry's register until the case has been investigated by the CAS. It is the C.A.S.'s decision whether or not the name of the alleged abuser should appear on the register. The Ministry must inform anyone whose name appears on the register.

Suspected abusers have the right to inspect information about themselves and request that their names be withdrawn. The Director of Child Welfare for this part of the act cannot refuse to expunge the name from the register without first holding a hearing. The decision from the hearing can be appealed in Divisional Court.

According to the act, child abuse is defined as,

- " a) physical harm;
- b) malnutrition or mental ill-health of a degree that if not immediately remedied could seriously impair growth and development or result in permanent injury or death; or
- c) sexual molestation."

The act also states that any professional (physician, social worker, teacher etc.) who suspects child abuse must report it to a children's aid society. A \$1,000 fine can result from failure to report suspected abuse.

To encourage reporting and protect anonymity the act states "the register shall not contain any information that has the effect of identifying the person or persons making the report to a society"

Verifying Suspected Abuse

Training materials have been developed for CASs outlining the processes to be followed in verifying information about suspected abuse. For example, a CAS worker should call to see if the register has a previous record of the suspected abuser. The referral source and others with pertinent information should be interviewed. The victim of the alleged abuse should be interviewed where appropriate, and the person suspected of abuse should be visited.

Colleagues could be consulted and a case conference may be useful in verifying information before a report is made to the register. In addition, the community child abuse team consisting of various professionals working with children may get involved.

The Register's Functions

The child abuse register has three functions:

1. Tracking - a CAS worker investigating a case can discover if the name of the suspected offender has previously appeared on the register.
2. Research - the Division will be able to plan programs better using the information supplied by the register about abusers, incidence of abuse etc.
3. Reviewing case management practices - the Ministry and CASs will be assisted in this by the information contained on the register.

The Future of the Old Registry

The establishment of the new register has raised some questions about the use and future of the old child abuse registry which has accumulated a file of about 9,000 cases of alleged child abuse dating back to 1968.

The Ministry has decided that if and when access is made to an old record by the CAS, the Official Guardian, the Ministry or the Coroner in pursuing a new report of abuse, any person whose name appears on the old registry shall be informed of this fact. If expungent of the name from the registry is sought, the required review and hearing can be obtained.

This avoids the risk of intruding into completely unknown and possibly changed family circumstances years later which would arise if letters were now sent to all 9,000 alleged child abusers. It also avoids the considerable administrative and mailing costs which would be incurred by contacting all these people.

Any name which has not been accessed in 16 years will automatically be removed and the central file destroyed. Similarly, if a name on the old file is accessed but does not result in a new incident report, it will also be expunged.

Child Advocacy Information System To Begin Operation Soon

A pilot program to test the child advocacy information system (tracking system) designed by the Division is scheduled to begin in October.

A pre-pilot test was carried out in August involving four agencies in the Niagara area and provided valuable feedback from the participants. This tracking system is one of the most important elements of information systems development in children's services. Initially, it will involve only residential care facilities and probation and after care services. The goals of the system are to assist in case and resource management.

Case Management

The child advocacy information system will provide data capable of monitoring each child's progress through the network of children's services. Tragic occurrences in the past have pointed out the need for such monitoring.

The awareness of a child's previous involvement with children's services will allow the case worker to confer quickly with agencies having knowledge of the child and family and thereby:

- ensure that the child and family are not involved in treatment/care techniques which have not been effective for them in the past
- ensure that duplication of service to a child and family is identified and determine if this is in everyone's best interests
- ensure that the appropriate agency is handling the case (this relates particularly to children re-entering the children's services network)
- arrive at a sound formulation of needs followed by appropriate case planning
- identify youngsters who require special advocacy or attention, such as:
 - 1) those who appear to be rejected frequently, re-referred and/or transferred within the network

- 2) those who appear to be in care for a prolonged period of time
- 3) those who have a high incidence of recidivism.

Resource Management

In addition to assisting with case management, the child advocacy information system will be important in resource management. The valuable data collected will improve planning and forecasting capabilities in the system. The following information will be collected and analyzed:

- Client flow - monitoring the movement of youngsters through the system will show new or developing trends. When these are analyzed, necessary steps can be taken to ensure the load on an agency or area does not become unwieldy, with accompanying inadequate service delivery.
- Length of stay - average figures can be derived.
- Recidivism rates on an individual and group basis can be determined.
- Utilization rates will indicate over and under-utilization in particular geographic areas.
- Waiting time for service - eventually blocks in the network will be identifiable quickly so that the necessary intervention to solve the problems can occur.

System Description

The information collected by the child advocacy information system will be:

- a brief name code
- birthdate
- sex
- wardship status
- municipality of residence
- facility name
- admission date
- estimated discharge date
- actual discharge date
- case worker's name.

The process involves completion of a form for each child as he or she enters and exits from a program.

Confidentiality Safeguards

An extremely high standard of privacy will be maintained through the following measures:

- The child's full name will not be used. Rather, only two digits of the given name and two digits of the surname will be coded.
- Only minimal information will be collected to allow identification of agencies having previously provided care to the child.
- The abbreviated identifier received from agencies will then be scrambled to produce a unique code.
- No data will exist which would permit linkage to other computer systems.
- A rigorous mechanical security system will surround access to the central file, preventing unauthorized persons from gaining access to the information in the file.
- Each child's unique identifier will be erased from the file when the individual reaches the age of 18 or when service is complete if this extends beyond the 18th birthday.
- Procedures have been developed to ensure that only authorized access to the limited information on an individual child occurs. These include identifying the staff, the agencies and the conditions under which access may be granted and specifying consent requirements.

Child advocacy or helping a child who requires special assistance will receive vital support from this tracking system. This includes child advocacy both on an individual and collective basis. A paper is currently being prepared on advocacy which will describe the role of tracking in greater detail.

If you would like further information on the child advocacy information system please contact:

Christine Macartney - Coordinator
Information Systems and Analysis,
Standards and Information Unit,
12th Floor, 700 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9.
Telephone: 965-5095.

Indo - Chinese Teenagers To Resettle In Ontario

Up to 400 Indo-Chinese teenagers currently in Southeast Asian refugee camps will be brought to Ontario in the coming months. These young people are between the ages of 12 and 17; their parents are still in Vietnam or their whereabouts is unknown.

The provincial and federal authorities are cooperating to ensure that these youngsters receive appropriate care and support when they arrive. They will not be adopted, but will be sponsored by families, backed up by organizations or groups of private sponsors. Initially, each child will be looked after by a guardian who will be responsible for him or her. The sponsors will have to care for the child to age 18 or for one year, whichever is longer.

The federal government is responsible for the immigration of these teenagers. The provincial government, through the Ministry of Community and Social Services is responsible for studying the homes of prospective sponsors, and monitoring the placements afterwards. The Ministry will also help the teenagers and their designated families cope with adjustment and resettlement problems.

According to the Minister of Community and Social Services, Keith C. Norton, "both the federal and provincial governments recognize that special arrangements have to be made to ensure a smooth transition to life in Ontario. This is the first time teenage refugees are being brought to Canada on their own and it is our joint responsibility to ensure that all aspects of admission to Ontario and subsequent placement and care, are achieved effectively and humanely."

Foster Care Coordinator Undertakes Major Initiatives

One of the main tasks facing the Division's new coordinator for foster care, Bob Glass, will be enhancing the image of foster parents in Ontario. Some people do not understand or may have misconceptions about the role of foster parents. There is also confusion about the Ministry's and other foster care programs.

A market survey will be carried out that reviews current perceptions of fostering. If recommended, a public relations campaign will be launched to try to improve this situation. In addition, specific campaigns for recruiting foster parents will be developed, tailored to different geographic areas and agencies.

Mr. Glass will also be reviewing and analyzing foster care rates across the province with a view to rationalizing the rate structure and making it more equitable. Rate revisions will then be considered as a result of the analysis to ensure that out-of-pocket expenses incurred by foster parents are being covered.

Another project on which Mr. Glass will be working is the development of criteria to approve enhanced staffing levels and initiatives in the individual agencies to improve foster care services. The Division asked agencies to put forward names for foster care coordinator in each region. Pamela Richard has been selected as the southwest region's foster care coordinator. The other three are currently being recruited. Agencies are being reimbursed by the Division for the cost of seconding these coordinators.

These four people will work with the Division's regional offices, providing a link between the agencies, the field and head office. They will evaluate requested staffing increases to societies, assist in determining criteria for support services for foster parents and evaluate how our current foster care programs are working.

Assessment Coordinator Begins Work

The new coordinator for assessment, Art Handelsman, will be looking at how assessments are being done by service providers in the province to identify existing problems and gaps in service. In particular, he will be working on issues related to standards, continuity of care and accountability. A discussion paper released in April, Clinical Assessments in Children's Services has provided a starting point for this task.

Assessment of a child is done by gathering relevant information, observing the child's behaviour, and classifying or diagnosing his or her needs or deficits. Then, planning programs and arranging for assistance or treatment can be done. A relevant and adequate assessment is essential whenever a major change is being contemplated in a child's situation.

Presently, within the children's services delivery system, there are a number of problem areas around assessment with regard to availability, quality and administrative issues. Mr. Handelsman will be coordinating the establishment of a more unified and efficient assessment system across the province which will incorporate the best features of current practices.

Mr. Handelsman is presently involved in a project to establish community-based assessment programs to serve children in the central region who have been committed to wardship under The Training Schools Act by the Family Court. These programs will be community alternatives to the assessment function previously carried out at Pine Ridge School and Kawartha Lakes School, two training schools which closed recently.

Projects will be initiated shortly dealing with pre-disposition assessments and a comprehensive inventory of assessment resources across the province.

Hastings & Prince Edward Children's Services Committee: Update of Activities

by Phil Ogden, Executive Director

The Hastings-Prince Edward Children's Services Committee is one of the four models set up last year by the Ministry to coordinate children's services locally.

The perceptions, needs and therefore, the priorities of the various areas served by the committee are different and for this reason five formal regional groups were established. These community-based groups of service providers, consumers and volunteers act as information conduits between the members of the core committee and their respective areas.

They are also engaged in identifying local resources for children, increasing their community's awareness of the special needs of children, and developing profiles of hard-to-serve-children.

These regional groups elect seven members to the core committee of the larger committee. The other eight members of the core committee are appointed from four councils in Hastings County, Prince Edward County, Belleville and Trenton.

The core committee through a system of sub-committees deals with expediting the administrative tasks and recommending priorities for the larger committee; overseeing expenditures and planning yearly budgets; recommending operating procedures for the core committee and the regional groups and policies for core-regional interactions; increasing the public's awareness of the functions of the children's services committee; and establishing working relationships with individuals in the education system.

A task force on hard-to-serve children has been established which in reviewing selected cases, seeks to educate itself, agencies and the public at large about the problems these children and their families encounter. It also attempts to arrive at practical creative solutions for at least some of these cases.

The children's services committee has been asked to participate on a special rate review committee. This body constituted by the regional office of the Ministry in Kingston, acts as an appeal board on per diem rates by group home operators. This body is able to recommend to the Ministry's regional director a change in a particular group home's per diem rate and also to recommend to the Ministry general funding procedures for group homes.

Since July, we have been contacting agencies which provide services to children in order to exchange information and solicit cooperation. Agencies contacted include planning boards, Ministry regional and area offices, the M.R. Working Group, United Community Services, Public Health, the Family Court system, county social services, special education, the Children's Aid Society, and other children's service providers. On September 26, we sponsored a workshop on automated information systems for service providers. The Ministry's Standards and Information Unit conducted this workshop.

Although we have begun to identify existing services, a formal needs assessment process has not yet been undertaken. The Hastings-Prince Edward area has no regional government, district health council, or active social planning council. To date, there has not been much cooperative social planning and little hard data on children's needs or services has been collected.

In order to supplement the skills of the executive director and members of the core committee, most of whom are lay people, a professional advisory group with expertise in needs assessment and social planning will be constituted. It will work with the executive director and recommend to the core committee a work plan and methodologies for conducting a needs assessment of Prince Edward and Hastings Counties. In addition, people in the area with specialized skills that can be tapped by the committee will be identified.

Members Appointed to Children's Services Review Board

Nine members have been appointed to the Ministry's newly established Children's Services Review Board. The board replaces two former review boards - the Day Nursery Review Board and the Review Board for Children's Mental Health Centres.

The Children's Services Review Board will hear appeals from decisions related to:

- licences to operate day nurseries under the The Day Nurseries Act
- licences to private adoption agencies and proposed placements for adoption under The Child Welfare Act
- licences to operate children's residences or to provide residential care at more than one location under The Children's Residential Services Act.

Carol Ashmore of the Operational Support Unit will set up meetings and handle other administrative details for the board. She can be reached at: 9th Floor - 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9. Telephone: 965-1632.

The board members are:

J. Eric Ford, (Chairman) - Toronto
 Dr. Donald Bellamy, (Vice-Chairman)-
 Toronto
 Patricia M. MacKay, (Vice-Chairman)-
 Toronto
 Mary Lou Curtis - Thunder Bay
 Mary McNie - Dundas
 Guilford Deverell - Mt. Forest
 Helen I. Wood - Newburgh
 Dr. Valentin Cruz - Windsor
 Dr. Robert Briggs - Kingston

We are updating our mailing list. If you receive surplus copies of the newsletter, or if your address is incorrect, please inform:

The Consultation Task Force
 9th Floor, 700 Bay Street
 Toronto, Ontario
 Telephone: 965-1631.

The New Child Welfare Act Explained

A series of papers discussing The Child Welfare Act, 1978 in layman's language has been prepared by the Division. Each paper deals with a specific area of endeavour directly affected by the new legislation and addresses persons who are most likely to be "using" the new provisions on an ongoing basis. The paper are listed below.

- 1 - The Private Adoption Agency, June 1979
 - discusses the provisions of Part III of the act which address the licensing of private adoption agencies, regulations prescribed to implement those provisions, and Division adoption policy.
- 2 - The Person Other Than the Agency Adoption, June 1979
 - discusses the provisions of Part III of the act which address the licensing of individuals who wish to place children for adoption, regulations prescribed to implement those provisions, and Division adoption policy.
- 3 - The Adoption of a Child by a Step - Parent or Relative, June 1979
 - discusses the adoption provisions of the act applicable to step-parents and certain classes of relatives who are not subject to the licensing requirements of the act if they adopt a 'related' child.
- 4 - Protection and Care of Children, June 1979
 - discusses Part II of the act (the protection and care of children in need of protection, within the meaning of the statute).
- 5 - Child Abuse Reporting Laws, June 1979
 - discusses those provisions of Part II of the act which address the reporting of child abuse, regulations prescribed to implement those provisions and related Division policy.

The papers listed above (1-5) are available from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1Z8. Telephone: 965-2054.

6 - The Home Study of Prospective - Adoptors (Guidelines), June 1979

The home study of prospective adoptive parents forms an intrinsic part of any decision to place a child in an adoptive home. This paper addresses those persons who may be doing home studies and sets out the Division's expectations.

7 - Adoption Disclosure -Memorandum of Procedure, June 1979

- discusses the provisions of the act which mandate the adoption disclosure register and details the procedures a birth parent or adult adoptee should follow to effect 'registration'.

8 - Adoption of an Adult or Married Person, July 1979

- discusses the relevant provisions of Part III of the act which affect adoptions.

These last three papers can be obtained from the Children's Aid Society Review Unit, 2nd Floor - 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9. Telephone: 965-4881

"Tips For Parents - IYC Windup Project

A newsletter geared to helping children and families will be the Ontario Government's windup project for the International Year of the Child. Each Ministry has contributed articles containing tips to parents on a variety of topics.

Examples of Ministry of Community and Social Services articles include:

- positive parenting tips
- choosing good day care
- when to contact the Children's Aid Society
- reporting child abuse

Topics from other ministries include:

- nutrition (Agriculture and Food)
- teaching children how to be wise consumers (Consumer and Commercial Relations)
- television habits for children (Culture and Recreation)
- helping your child to learn (Education)
- introducing your child to nature (Environment)
- infant nutrition (Health)
- safety in the home (Housing)
- how parents can help children learn about careers and occupations - (Labour)
- teaching children to say no to a stranger (Solicitor General -O.P.P.)
- children and bicycle safety (Transportation and Communication).

The information in the articles comes from existing government publications. Although it is being highlighted in the International Year of The Child, ministries continually help children and families needing assistance.

Copies of the newsletter will be mailed to a variety of organizations and agencies having contact with families. Individual copies are available from: Jane McKinnon, Social Policy Secretariat, 1st Floor, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2. Telephone: 965-2979.

Two Consolidated Acts Available

Two consolidated acts incorporating the amendments to children's services legislation passed in the legislature last year are now available. They are:

1. The Day Nurseries Act
2. The Children's Residential Services Act.

Copies can be obtained from: Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1Z8.
Telephone: 965-2054.

Address and Telephone Changes

There have been some changes to the addresses and telephone numbers listed for Ministry regional and area offices in the last two issues of the newsletter. Please update your list with the following information:

Southwest Region

London Regional Office
Gillian Doherty, Regional Director
195 Dufferin Ave., 5th floor
London, Ontario
N6A 1K7
Tel: 438-8344

London Area Office
Michael Ennis, Area Manager
195 Dufferin Ave. 5th Floor
London, Ontario
N6A 1K7
Tel: 438-8387

Southeast Region

Kingston Regional Office
Ken Macdonald, Regional Director
336 Alfred St.,
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 3S5
Tel: 549-6461

Kingston Area Office
Jerry Duda, Area Manager
1055 Princess St., Ste 305
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 5T3
Tel: 549-6470

Northern Region

Sault Ste. Marie Regional Office
Val Gibbons, Regional Director
875 Queen St. East, Main Floor
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6A 2B3
Tel: 949-8052

Northeastern Area
Kirby Breithaupt, Area Manager
P.O. Box 1720
South Porcupine, Ontario
P0N 1H0
Tel: 235-3363

Unit Set Up To Serve Developmentally Handicapped Children

Dr. John Hull has been hired as co-ordinator of a unit set up in the Division to look at policy and program development affecting developmentally handicapped children. His previous position was Director of Research and Planning in the Mental Health and Rehabilitative Services Directorate of the Manitoba Government. Two policy analysts, Anne Malton and Maxine Walsh, formerly from the Ministry's Mental Retardation Division, have been hired to work with him in the unit.

In addition, Flora Nicholson from the Dr. Rygiel Home for Children in Hamilton will be a consultant to the unit on a part-time basis and Dr. Carl Rabino from Surrey Place in Toronto will be providing assistance on particular issues.

The unit will be developing a list of priority issues to be addressed over the next several months. Details will be provided in a future issue of this newsletter.

One of the Division's early tasks since taking over services for developmentally handicapped children has been the development of a new approach to funding residential services for these children. The present funding approach has not made it possible for these programs to develop at the same rate as programs for adults. The new funding policy will be announced in the next few weeks and hopefully it can be implemented in a way which will enable some residential programs to go forward this fiscal year.

Consultation Over on CAS By-Laws

The consultation period has just ended on a set of model children's aid society (CAS) by-laws prepared by the Division. The proposed by-laws were sent out in February for discussion after having been put together by reference to: existing by-laws; the previous model by-laws issued by the Division; various materials written about private organizations and the role of boards of directors; and the role study of child welfare services recently released by the Division.

The by-laws of charitable corporations such as CASs are vitally important. They determine such things as how the organization will manage and govern itself; define the role of the board the executive director and other officers of the corporation; determine the makeup of boards and the membership of the agency; outline election procedures; and determine committee structures. To a great extent, the by-laws can function as a major device for determining the extent to which the private agency is accountable to the community it serves.

Since the CASs have developed over many years as private charitable bodies and later charitable corporations, the by-laws have developed differently from agency to agency. Several years ago the by-laws became subject to ministerial approval. The proposed by-laws have been released in an attempt to establish criteria against which that approval will be given or denied.

Throughout the model by-laws, an attempt is made to reinforce the position of the Division that private boards of directors should be supported and strengthened to the greatest degree possible. The Division also feels that clear measures should exist to ensure that, particularly through the board, the agency is accountable to the community. The set of model by-laws contains both standards and guidelines.

A final set of by-laws will be produced in the coming months based upon feedback received from CASs. The Minister's approval of future CAS by-laws will be dependent upon adherence to these model by-laws once they are finally developed.

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Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson,
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division

Vol. 4, No. 1, March 1980

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Foster Care Paper Being Prepared	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to ensure a more equitable distribution of resources to meet the special needs of children in accordance with definite needs.
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Private Home Day Care Workshop	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to assist in the development of local decision making in children's services.
Day Care Standards in Preparation	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to link the Division's methods of planning, budgeting, funding and accountability.
Community Chaplaincy Project	9	
Central Region Update	9	
Consultation Deadline Extended	10	
Resource Centre	10	The new funding approach contains the following key elements.
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- setting of financial objectives.
- establishment of inventory classification of residential resources serving the Division and to plan for future requirements.
- establishment of a more clearly defined planning process.
- the improvement of the Division's capacity to review services and how much they are utilized.
- development of a new budgeting and reimbursement system that permits greater equity in allocation, comparisons of expenditures across different programs and overall budgeting control.

Using the "services" approach to funding, the Ministry will intervene in the financial operations of an agency only in exceptional circumstances.

Overall, the intrusion into the internal financial affairs of private agencies by the Ministry will be significantly reduced from the current level.

* * *

New CAS Funding Outlined

The Honourable Keith C. Norton has announced a major reform of provincial funding for Ontario's 50 Children's Aid Societies. A further eight percent increase in funding is being given to all societies for their 1980 budgets. The increase will be based upon the total of approved 1979 budgets, any supplementary budgets and monies allocated by the Ministry for the special initiatives. In addition Ministry funds for special initiatives such as Child Abuse, Foster Care and Francophone Services will be allocated to the agencies on a full year basis.

Mr. Norton explained that the current methods by which the Ministry funds a wide range of Children's Services do not give either Societies or the Ministry the amount of flexibility and accountability needed to best serve children. In some cases the Ministry had almost no control over what an agency did with its funds; in other cases, the Ministry did a line-by-line scrutiny of an agency's budget.

The Ministry, therefore, will be adopting a "services" approach to funding. This involves Government defining the types of services it wishes to purchase and then setting aside funds for each. Once the type of services and their costs have been agreed upon, there would be minimal government involvement in the internal operations of the agencies.

The Ministry is implementing the new funding approach on a step-by-step basis, first starting with Children's Aid Societies.

The new funding approach will mean:

- Budget allocations of CASs will be made clearer sooner than is presently done.
- Barring exceptional circumstances, CASs will be expected to operate within their allocated budgets.
- Beginning in 1981-82, allocations of new funds to CASs will be done in a manner which reflects the number of children in the area they serve, weighted by a number of social and economic factors. These will be determined in consultation with the societies and municipalities.

- During the next six to nine months, the Ministry's staff will be working with CASs through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies to try, by mid-1980, to reduce the total amount of reporting and form filling CASs are required to do.
- Both CASs and municipalities will be provided with statistical information and analyses by the Ministry. These will aid them in monitoring their performance with respect to their own goals and those of other CASs.
- The role and authority of the Boards of Directors of CAS, will be established. This will help the direction and development of their agencies.

The new funding approach will also help municipalities by letting them know early in the fiscal year how much money will be required from municipal budgets for societies.

The current cost sharing formula for the funding of CAS will be unaffected.

The new funding approach became effective in January.

* * *

Address and Telephone Changes

There have been some changes to the addresses and telephone numbers listed for Ministry regional and area offices in the last two issues of the newsletter. Please update your list with the following information:

Southwest Region

London Regional Office
Michael Ennis,
Regional Director,
195 Dufferin Avenue, 5th Floor,
London, Ontario.
N6A 1K7
Tel: 438-8344

London Area Office
195 Dufferin Avenue,
5th Floor,
London, Ontario.
N6A 1K7
Tel: 438-8387

Southeast Region

Kingston Regional Office
Ken Macdonald, Regional Director
336 Alfred Street,
Kingston, Ontario.
K7L 3S5
Tel: 549-6461

Kingston Area Office
Jerry Duda, Area Manager
1055 Princess St., Suite 305,
Kingston, Ontario.
K7L 5T3
Tel: 549-6470

Northern Region

Sault Ste. Marie Regional Office
Val Gibbons, Regional Director,
875 Queen Street East, Main Floor,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.
P6A 2B3
Tel: 949-8052

Northeastern Area
Kirby Breithaupt, Area Manager,
P.O. Box 1720,
South Porcupine, Ontario.
P0N 1H0
Tel: 235-3363

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments (December 1977)	226	*
Local Children's Services Committees (January 1978)	53	*
Information Systems Development	10	*
Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines (Sept, 1978)	106	*
Standards and Guidelines for Outdoor/Wilderness Programming (June 1979)	2	*
Child Welfare in Ontario: Past, Present and Future (September 1979)	6	Apr. 31
Consultation Paper on Case Information Disclosure (October 1979)	1	Sept. 30

* passed

New Ministry Funding Policy

The Ministry has developed a more equitable funding policy for all residential facilities serving developmentally handicapped children. The new policy will lessen the financial strain on parents of developmentally handicapped children and the agencies which serve those children.

Currently, residential facilities receive 80 percent funding from the government, while the other 20 percent is raised privately, by the agencies, through charging parents or fund raising. Under the new funding policy full funding, less 3 percent of the budgeted cost of care (which agencies will raise) and a charge to the parents, will be provided by the government.

Parental contribution will be based on their ability to pay. The estimated 1980 value of family allowance plus child tax credits is \$40 a month. The minimum estimated monthly cost of providing for a normal child, living at home is \$90.00. Thus, depending on the family's income, parental contributions will range from a minimum of \$40.00 a month to a maximum of \$90.00 a month. The Government will subsidize the agencies for those families contributing less than the maximum. Therefore, families with lower incomes will not be burdened financially.

Key to the new funding policy is the Special Needs Agreement. Parents placing their children in residential facilities enter into a Special Needs Agreement with the Minister

or his designate. This is an agreement which shows that the child is, in fact, a child in need of special services which cannot be provided by the parent or guardian.

The agreement the parents enter into must specify not only the child's special needs and the services which will be provided by the agency to meet these needs, but also the responsibilities the parents will assume with respect to the child. Therefore, by entering into such an agreement, the parents will have a clear involvement in the decisions regarding the services which are provided to their child, and will commit themselves to a continuing responsibility for the child's welfare.

Further Funding Transfers

Funding for children's units in Ontario psychiatric hospitals has been transferred to the Children's Services Division.

The units in the Queen Street Mental Health Centre and the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital have been fully assumed by the Division with complete staff transfer and severance from the Ministry of Health.

Children's psychiatric units at Whitby, London, St. Thomas, Owen Sound and the Lakehead will remain part of their respective hospitals. Excepting the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, which will be responsible for its own, staffing and programming will remain the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Health. The Children's Services Division hopes to play a major role in joint planning and operating of these units.

Remaining under negotiation, but not slated for immediate transfer, are the Kingston Family Court Clinic and the Toronto Family Clinic, which is part of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry.

The moves outlined will complete the transfer from the Ministry of Health to the Children's Services Division for the foreseeable future.

Amendments to the Child Welfare Act Passed

Since The Child Welfare Act 1978 came into effect last June, specific sections of the legislation have been interpreted in a manner which resulted in serious difficulties for Children's Aid Societies and the children they serve.

Some of the problems had been resolved through training programs and broad communication of inventive approaches adopted by individual courts and societies. However, there were distinct provisions of the Act causing difficulty which could only be remedied by changing the legislation.

In November the Honourable Keith C. Norton introduced a Bill which amended certain parts of the Act. The Bill became law on December 20, 1979.

The most significant of the changes introduced are as follows:

1. The definition of 'parent' in the Child Welfare Act, 1978, has been given an interpretation which far exceeds the breadth intended by the new Child Welfare Act, 1978. The intent of that Act was to recognize a broader class of 'parent' (in particular, the father of a child born out of marriage than that defined by the old Child Welfare Law, but to stop short of recognizing all putative fathers, simply because the efforts to identify and locate a person who has fathered a child may delay development of appropriate plans for the child's care.

The new Bill, Bill 162, will re-enact the definition of 'parent' to include fathers of children born out of marriage only if they have in fact demonstrated some wish to be involved in the proceedings or with the child.

Under the new Act 'guardians' of a child will be given 'parent' status only if they have been appointed by court order.

Persons seen as psychological parents by a child are given status only if they have treated the child as part of their family within the immediately preceding 12 months.

2. There had been a problem for children awaiting a final adoption order but caught between the consent requirements of the old and new Acts.

An adoption order may now be made for these children if the consent requirements of the old Act were met and if the children were on adoption placement on June 15, 1979.

3. Some courts had interpreted the new legislation to require that birth parents be served formal notice of the adoption hearing. The new amendment provides that no notice of the hearing be given to the birth parents, once they have consented to the adoption in accordance with the Act.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is revising certain rules governing procedure and practice in the Provincial Courts (Family Division) to complement these changes to the Child Welfare Act, 1978. One of these rules follows "the child to be adopted may be identified in the proceeding by his given names in full, followed by the first letter of his surname and his birth registration number. The applicant may be identified in any document in the proceeding by the first letter of his surname".

* * *

The Division, with the assistance of a small group of family law specialists has entered into a joint effort with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies to provide them with summaries of relevant court decisions under the Child Welfare Act, and practical aids as requested.

For further information on this, contact the OACAS, 663 Yonge Street, Toronto, 924-2094.

* * *

Section 20 of The Child Welfare Act, which allows Judges to appoint lawyers for children, was proclaimed law on February 1st and is now in effect. Implementation procedures, prepared with the assistance of the Division, have been sent to all Children's Aid Society offices.

* * *

Guidelines Established on Handling Serious Occurrences

Guidelines and suggested procedure for the reporting of serious occurrences to the Ministry have been developed. The primary purpose of these guidelines is to provide a consistent basis for communication of serious occurrences, so that the Ministry and the Agency are aware of what has happened and have agreed upon an appropriate follow-up.

The guidelines are currently being distributed to residential, non residential treatment programs funded, monitored or directly run under legislation for which the Children's Services Division is responsible. They are:

- Day Nurseries
- Day Care Centre
- Children's Mental Health Centres
- Children's Aid Societies' Programs
- Children's Boarding Homes
- Training Schools
- Observation and Detention Homes
- Correctional Group Homes

- Treatment Centres
- Probation and After Care Programs
- Mental Retardation Facilities

and other programs not listed that are responsible for children in care.

Distribution of the guidelines to agencies is being handled by the regional and area offices.

* * *

Foster Care Paper Being Prepared

Background

A consultation paper Foster Care: Proposed Standards and Guidelines is being prepared.

In the fall of 1978, the Consultation Paper "Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines" was released. Public consultation on the residential standards paper highlighted the need to develop a separate and distinct set of standards for small parent-model homes for children. Accordingly, the decision was made to undertake the development of a separate set of standards and guidelines for foster care.

These standards and guidelines will be directed to placement agencies such as Children's Aid Societies (CASs) and Probation and After Care Services. They will apply to small parent-model homes receiving no more than four unrelated children in care.

The Paper - Foster Care: Proposed Standards and Guidelines

Foster care, for the paper's purposes, is being viewed broadly as a process which begins when the question is asked whether to separate the child from his or her natural parents, involves the integration of the child into a substitute family, and ends when the child is stabilized in his or her natural family, placed for adoption or becomes legally independent.

The first part of the paper outlines what happens to the child and his or her natural family in the process. Part two sets out the procedures for recruiting and selecting foster families and the practices of the placement agency for supporting foster homes. Part three covers aspects of the management of foster care service.

The paper is expected to be available in the community this year. The consultation will specifically involve foster parents, members of foster parent associations, CASs, Probation and Aftercare officers and, wherever possible, adults formerly in the foster care system.

The Division would welcome submissions from anyone who wishes to respond. Consultation feed-back will be reviewed by the Ministry. Changes will be made to the proposed standards and guidelines based on the consultation. The standards will be brought into force by inclusion in the regulations under the Children's Residential Services Act, 1978.

The Division, in consultation with a central co-ordinating committee and sub-committees composed of people knowledgeable about the foster care process and the needs of children in care, is developing the standards and guidelines for foster care. Mary Thelander of the Standards and Information Unit is the Project Manager.

* * *

New Developments in Observation and Detention Services in the North

An extensive plan to develop observation and detention services throughout the North has been initiated this year. In addition to current services operational in Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, North Bay, Sudbury and Bracebridge, new programs are anticipated in Kenora, Fort Frances, Timmins and Moosonee by early 1980.

Northern Ontario has been virtually without access to any type of formal detention facilities. It has, in the past, resorted to such less desirable alternatives for children as police station lock-ups, jail, hotel rooms and, on occasion, unwarranted release to their own homes. A statistical and resource profile of the Northwestern and Northeastern areas reveals several unique characteristics. Most urban centres are separated by great distances, and there are numerous isolated communities. The entire region is limited in resources, yet studies indicate a high ratio of children involved with the courts.

The existence of a large native population and several Francophone communities demands the assurance of a flexible program which can meet the needs of the various cultures. The unique transportation difficulties faced by the service providers in Northern Ontario is another important issue for consideration in the implementation of observation and detention programs to adequately service the courts, families and agencies.

The Children's Services Division has introduced a four level model for detention. Although it is somewhat of a challenge to realize all four levels in the North, we have to date established secure, semi-secure and open homes. Sudbury has been identified to provide secure back-up detention. Open detention homes have been or will be established in Fort Frances, Moosonee, North Bay and Bracebridge. In Kenora, Thunder Bay and Timmins, emphasis has been placed on establishing semi-secure units which encompass a more flexible service for children, and will be incorporated into a multi-purpose facility concept. In most cases, the semi-secure homes will provide short-term emergency placement or crisis management on a voluntary basis in addition to observation and detention.

Private Home Day Care Workshop

A workshop on Private Home Day Care (PHDC) has been held in Toronto. The workshop, co-sponsored by the Metro Toronto PHDC Association and the Children's Services Division, was attended by delegates from Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The main focus was the working paper on the Development of Licensing Standards for PHDC Agencies. Delegates formed study groups to discuss the paper, with each group preparing a response and recommendation. These will be available by calling Ruth Wagg (416-965-5340). The need for an Ontario Association for PHDC was also discussed.

The workshop's keynote speaker was Mr. Joseph Perrault of Atlanta, Georgia. He discussed alternative approaches to PHDC and outlined major American developments designed to improve the quality of family day care.

Three panel discussions, "Current issues and Where We Are Now", "Principles of Child Care Regulations", and "Critiquing the Consultation Paper", were also held.

* * *

Day Care Standards in Preparation

The Ministry has prepared a paper on proposed standards for day care. Currently being printed it is expected to be released, for public consultation, in early March. The paper, written by Dave Millar of the Children's Services Division, talks about standards for all licensed centre care, specialized nursery services and supervised private home day care programs. Further information on the paper will be available in the next edition of this newsletter.

Community Chaplaincy Project

The Children's Services Division together with the Civil Service Commission has begun a community chaplaincy project. Operating out of the Southeastern regional office in Kingston, the project will be affecting models of community intervention for problem children with local churches and community groups. The initial areas of concern are:

- bringing the resource of the Church and related institutions "in stream" with existing Ministry modes of child care in the Community setting.
- organizing and training the volunteers coming out of this dimension of the community for tasks unique to their faith and identity.
- identifying methods of family and religious support appropriate to client's backgrounds and needs.
- establishing a system to give clients and their workers a place to air problems and disagreements.
- clarifying the role and resource of the Ministry for the Church and community in their work with families (Child Abuse Registry, Early Learning Centres, CAS involvement).
- To aid early and appropriate referral.

The project is designed to find ways of dealing with clients in small centres and rural areas. Its main thrust is to build informal support systems to help children with their community and school problems. It will also attempt to build local prevention programs around churches and civic groups.

For further information contact:

Rev. Stu. Schroeder,
Children's Services,
336 Alfred Street,
Kingston, Ontario.

Central Region Update

The central region has appointed Alex Honeyford as Regional Volunteer Co-ordinator. Working with the various service agencies associated with the Children's Services Division, it is hoped that he and the central region can develop even stronger and more effective volunteer services. Key areas of concern are:

The management of volunteer services, emphasizing the staff training and professional development of volunteer program Co-ordinators:

Traditionally, volunteer administrators have developed their skills primarily while "on the job". While this method is beneficial and desirable, a more formal input of information and skill development is needed by many co-ordinators of volunteer programs. Within the last three months, the Volunteer Centre of Metropolitan Toronto and Humber College have jointly developed a certificate program for volunteer co-ordinators.

Resource Centre:

Attention will be given to the development of a regional resource centre. While much resource material related to volunteer administration and programs already exists, it is not readily accessible to those who could use it most.

Volunteer Skills Co-ordinators:

There are large numbers of volunteers involved in diverse jobs within their agencies. By clarifying and publicizing available volunteer jobs as well as acknowledging the individual skills volunteers bring to programs, it may be possible to develop a skills and resources exchange for them. Volunteers would then be able to develop their interests and skills while still working internally. A central

regional volunteer committee will be developed with whom the regional volunteer co-ordinator will consult and make plans relating to the above and other matters.

During the 80's, the community's resources and skills will play an increasing role in the provision of social services. The central region looks forward to working with the other regions and sharing their concern and interest in volunteer services.

* * *

Consultation Deadline Extended

The deadline for consultation responses to Child Welfare in Ontario: Past, Present and Future has been extended to April 31st. This will allow individuals and agencies sufficient time to prepare their responses.

The Ministry will carefully review responses they receive; some will be summarized and published in future editions of the Children's Services Newsletter.

Copies of Child Welfare in Ontario are still available. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact:

The Consultation Task Force
9th Floor,
700 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario.
965-3111.

* * *

Resource Centre

The Dellcrest Children's Centre has announced the formation of the Dellcrest Resource Centre. The Resource Centre will concentrate on consulting, training, and producing literature for human services agencies.

Information on all aspects of service and administration, such as Management, Supervision, Evaluation and Research, Clinical Skills and Child Management can be found. Dellcrest also offers residency programs in Management, Brief Therapy and Prevention.

For further information, contact:

Mrs. Sylvia Milne
The Dellcrest Resource Centre
Toronto, Ontario.
633-0515

* * *

Orthopsychiatric Annual Conference

The American Orthopsychiatric Association will hold its prestigious Annual Conference in Canada at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto from April 7 to 11, 1980. The theme is "Economics of Mental Health: Political Origins and Clinical Implications".

'Ortho' is the only organization of its kind in North America. It brings together psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, educators, nurses, sociologists, anthropologists, pediatricians, behavioural scientists and others. Its commitment is prevention and a continual search for positive ways to foster mental health.

The annual conference, the major focus of the association, attracts between 4,000 and 6,000 participants each year. Bringing together top academicians and practitioners, in an exploration of the mental health concerns of the day is its purpose. With the sharing of multi-disciplinary perspectives and expertise, new insights and innovative ways of delivering service can result.

'Ortho' has traditionally drawn upon leading members of the various professions to provide program content. This year Silvano Arieti, Nathan

Epstein, Klaus Minde, Fritz Redl, Carl Whitaker and Quentin Rae-Grant will be among the presenters. Further information on the American Orthopsychiatric Association contact:

Jalal Shamsie M.B.
Chairman
Publicity and Arrangements
Committee
Ortho 1980
c/o Thistletown Regional Centre
51 Panorama Court
Rexdale, Ontario.
M9V 4L8

Phone: (416) 741-1210

* * *

New Appointment

Dr. Clive Chamberlain has been appointed head of Thistletown Regional Children's Centre. His appointment initiates program re-organization at Thistletown, following a role study and management review of the Centre.

Dr. Chamberlain joined the Children's Services Division in June of 1977. As Executive Co-ordinator of program policy, he was in charge of policy development for the Division.

Dr. Chamberlain received his medical training at the University of Toronto, where he completed post-graduate training in psychiatry in 1967. A specialist in children's and adolescent's problems, he joined the staff of the CM Hinks Treatment Centre. There, he directed the in-patient and day programs. In 1971 he moved to the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, where he directed an expanded family court clinic.

Since joining the Ministry, Dr. Chamberlain has concurrently maintained his interests. He is a staff psychiatrist at the Hospital for Sick Children, a consultant to the Clarke Institute and an associate psychiatry professor at the University of Toronto.

During the past two and a half years Dr. Chamberlain has contributed greatly to new policy development for children's services. His new position

notwithstanding, he will continue to be involved in specific policy projects, and will play an advisory role to the Division's policy committee.

Dr. Gillian Doherty, formerly Regional Director of the South West Region, has agreed to assume the policy development role previously held by Dr. Chamberlain.

Prevention Policy Advisor Hired

Rosemary Proctor has joined the Division as a prevention policy advisor. Mrs. Proctor, who holds an MSW, has had extensive experience in government and the social services. Before coming to the Division, she was the executive director of a multi-service health centre. Mrs. Proctor will assist prevention co-ordinator Carol Orphanacos in the development of a prevention program.

* * *

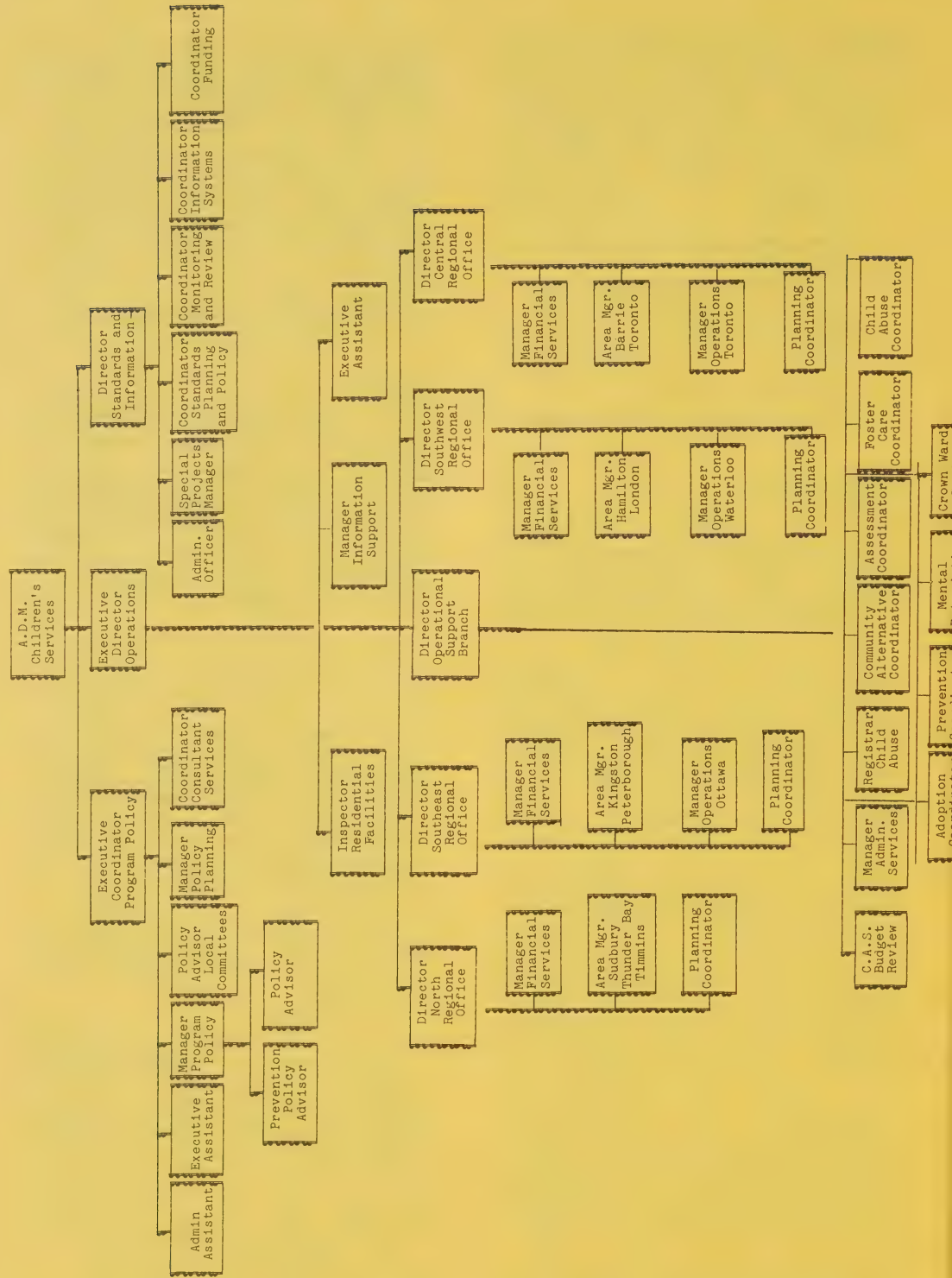
This newsletter is published periodically as a means of reaching those concerned with the provision of children's services. It is distributed to organizations in the fields of direct child care, health care, education, government, to special interest groups, and concerned individuals.

Special editions are published to announce and outline consultation papers which deal with specific child care issues.

You are invited to write for copies of specific consultation papers, and to respond to them so that new child care policies and legislation can better reflect the needs of the communities they are intended to serve.

Consultation Task Force
Children's Services Division
700 Bay Street, 9th Floor,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9

ORGANIZATION CHART - CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION





Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Children's Services

Hon. Keith C. Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division

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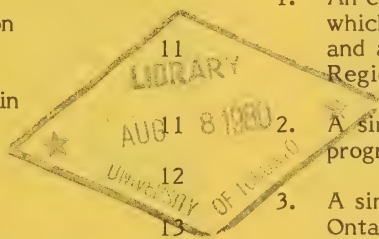
SECURE SERVICE PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED BY MINISTER

Four new programs will be established this year as part of the Ministry's policy of ensuring secure services for those children who need them and the development of community alternatives resulting in fewer placements of children in locked settings.

On June 5, 1980, The Honourable Keith Norton announced that the Ministry will establish:

1. An eight bed secure treatment unit which will provide long-stay care and assessment at the Thistletown Regional Centre in Toronto;
2. A similar unit providing the same program at the CPRI in London;
3. A similar eight bed unit in Eastern Ontario, the exact location of which is still to be determined;
4. A secure short-term unit in Toronto to replace the program previously offered at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

The Thistletown Unit is currently being developed and will be ready to accept its first children shortly; the unit in London may be in a position to receive children in the Fall. The Ministry is now reviewing alternatives for the east. The intent is to have a unit operational no later than the end of this financial year. The short-term unit will be opened by December 31st, 1980.



Background

The first stage of the Ministry's secure care policy, announced in 1978, resulted in the closing of three training schools. The closures reflected declining committals. This, in turn, mirrored the growth of community alternatives and juvenile diversion programs.

The second stage was announced later in 1978 as part of the plan to establish observation and detention home services for children appearing before the Courts. Again, the announced policy is to reserve secure care for those children clearly requiring it. There are now five secure homes across the province, located in Toronto, London, Ottawa, Hamilton and Oakville. The rest of the homes are semi-secure or open in design.

Six training schools remain (apart from Project D.A.R.E., an outdoor wilderness program which has been altered to enable it to take in a wider range of children). They are:

- o Cecil Facer School, Sudbury
- o Champlain School, Alfred
- o St. John's School, Uxbridge
- o Brookside School, Cobourg
- o Sprucedale School, Simcoe
- o Syl Apps Youth Centre, Oakville.

Mr. Norton noted that most of the above schools are designed as open residential facilities and their programs are operated to meet the academic/vocational needs of children who are not deemed high risk. However, two of the schools, Sprucedale and Syl Apps Youth Centre, are physically designed to handle adolescents requiring locked settings. One of the training schools, Brookside has two secure cottages.

Community Alternatives

The funds saved from the closures during the past two years have been allocated to community alternatives, the new secure treatment programs and the improvement of programs in remaining training schools. Emphasis has been placed on expanding these alternatives to ensure that as many children as possible are cared for within the community where the chances of successful treatment are greater and interference with the child's physical liberty is minimal. Approximately \$1.5 million will be spent this year to provide needed alternatives. These include specialized foster homes, heavily staffed group homes, an after care unit and support for wards placed generally in group homes. Further community alternatives announcements will be made in coming months.

The Ministry will also be releasing a report on secure services shortly. The Ministry's policy on secure services will be outlined as well as the reasons for that policy and the criteria and procedures by which it is suggested admission to secure programs should be made possible. It will also describe the action that the Ministry intends to take in the secure services area for children over the next four years.

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS MADE AVAILABLE

Funding Criteria

Research grants totalling \$350,000 in the current fiscal year have been made available by the Division. The money comes from the Provincial Lottery. The research program was initiated last year. Fourteen awards, which were announced following the first grant review period, are listed in the following article. Additional lottery money will be made available for new grant funding on an annual basis until the lottery allocation is fully committed.

Research projects should be specific and with a fixed term of duration. Requests for grants for more than one year (with a maximum of three years) will be considered with funding in later years contingent upon available funds. These funds are intended for research rather than programming or service costs. These research funds are not intended for major equipment purchases.

This grant program will be administered by the Ontario Mental Health Foundation. All applications will be subject to the foundation's Rules for Project Research. If you need a copy of the foundation's rules or application form, please contact the foundation's executive secretary, whose address is provided in the Grant Application section of this article.

Research projects eligible for funding can involve any of the various services within the Children's Services Division:

- day care
- child welfare
- juvenile corrections and detention
- mental health
- developmental handicaps.

Research can focus on children with special needs requiring any of these services or a combination of them. The research program has an applied or operational orientation. Therefore, most projects are expected to go beyond the purpose of gathering broader knowledge in an area and they should focus on knowledge which leads to action aimed at improving children's services.

The two research areas with equally high priority in the Division are:

- o Primary Prevention
- o Intervention Evaluations.

Research proposals are invited in the two general areas. More specific interests within these broad categories are outlined in the next sections to encourage research into important issues and/or with particular groups.

In order to further develop the research initiatives started in 1979-80, the Division is continuing with the same general priority areas. Applicants should examine the funded projects listed in the following article to determine whether the new proposal would involve unnecessary duplication. If your proposal appears to overlap with a funded project (s), you should contact the respective researcher (s) for further information to ensure the development of new or complementary projects.

A. Primary Prevention

The Division's highest priority in programming was identified as developing services which prevent serious problems for children and families. Research is needed to facilitate these developments in programming. Primary prevention projects aim to reduce the incidence of new cases in a population. There are two aspects of primary prevention:

- (a) focusing on modifying the stressful environment or specific protection, and
- (b) strengthening individual capacities to cope with stress, or competence promotion.

This definition suggests three goals for projects:

- o modifying the stressful environment
- o creating environments which enhance the social environment for the child
- o strengthening the ability of the individual (children and parents) to cope with stressful environments and identifying abilities which should be strengthened.

Examples of primary prevention projects which would be eligible for funding:

1. Studies of the factors which reduce vulnerability and which promote coping skills in children. Systematic studies of the "invulnerable" child.
2. Research on the core competencies in children, how they relate to each other and how these relate to interpersonal adjustment.
3. Identification of important environmental variables that affect the incidences of problems such as juvenile delinquency or socio-cultural retardation and the development of methods to reduce the incidence of such problems.
4. Determination and/or comparison of the effectiveness of specific prevention strategies with children identified as high-risk.
5. Assessment of the effectiveness of various prevention strategies such as family support models, self-help groups and neighbourhood networks.

B. Intervention Evaluation

Research is needed to test the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation strategies with specific disorders, disabilities, or problems. With the reorganization of Children's Services, there has been a concerted effort in the new system to describe the child in terms of his or her special needs rather than a professional service area. This shift has emphasized the lack of knowledge regarding the relationships between the presenting needs and/or characteristics of the child and the most effective intervention or form of an intervention. The usefulness of intervention evaluations is increased if the project design includes a cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis.

Examples of intervention evaluation projects which would be eligible for funding:

1. Outcome evaluation studies of the impact of specific treatment or rehabilitation strategies involving existing or developmental programs.
2. Studies based on differential treatment models assessing the most appropriate form or level of intervention for a particular type of child.
3. Studies of the effectiveness of different types of interventions with troubled children; e.g. comparing matched populations in terms of different types of residential care or residential versus day care.

Grant Applications

In cases where other specialized funding is available such as drug addiction we would suggest that the proposals should be submitted to these sources.

Collaboration is encouraged between the academic research community and the various agencies serving children with special needs so that high quality, relevant proposals will be developed. It should be stressed that relevant projects may involve any of the Division's service areas as limited previously under Funding Criteria. In the Foundation's application form there is a section regarding the relevance of the proposed project. The research should explain the relevance of the proposed project in terms of the priority areas specified in this article.

The deadline for research grant applications is Tuesday, September 30, 1980. All applications should be submitted to the Executive Secretary of The Ontario Mental Health Foundation at the following address:

Suite 1708
365 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario.
M4W 3L4

Tel: (416) 920-7721

The review process for this grant competition requires approximately six months. Therefore, the results should not be expected until March 1981 with the funding period beginning in April 1981.

RESEARCH GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Grants administered through the Children's Services Division and the Ontario Mental Health Foundation have been awarded. The monies, which will be used for child-related research, are the first part of the allotment from the total \$4 million allocation over a four-year period awarded by the Provincial Lottery.

The following grants, administered by the Division, were announced March 6 by The Honourable Keith C. Norton:

"The Low-Income 'Super-Competent' Mother: A Study of 100 Parents"

McMaster University Health Sciences of Hamilton will receive \$23,144 for a one-year study, comparing the characteristics of low income mothers whose children seem to escape the harmful effects of poverty with mothers whose children do not.

For further information contact Philippe A. Barrette, Chedoke McMaster Hospital, Hamilton, 387-1330.

"An Examination of the Capacity of Supervised Family Day Care to Adequately Serve Special Needs Children and Their Families"

Carleton University will receive \$18,127 for an eight-month study of the capacity of supervised family day care to adequately meet the needs of children requiring extra attention due to physical, mental, emotional or social difficulties or whose parents require additional support.

For further information contact Dr. Jim Albert, School of Social Work, Carleton University, Ottawa, 231-3641.

"An Investigation into the Use of Formal and Informal Helping Resources by Low-Income Parents"

The Dellcrest Children's Centre of Toronto will receive \$42,232 to determine if mothers living in a public housing neighbourhood are receiving support and assistance in dealing with problems related to parenting from formal helping services such as hospitals and children's aid societies, and informal services such as neighbours and relatives. The study is designed to find out who is using formal support services and to what extent formal services can work with or help develop social networks in order to help improve the quality of life in the community.

For further information contact Mr. Alan Hall, Dellcrest Children's Centre, Toronto, 633-0515.

"Father's Reaction to Their First New-Born Infant and the Birth Experience"

C.M. Hincks Treatment Centre of Toronto will receive \$8,200 for an eighteen month study to examine fathers' reaction to their new-born infants and the birth experience in order to determine the conditions promoting attachment.

For further information contact Dr. Bonnie Robson, C.M. Hincks Treatment Centre, 924-1164.

"Analysis of an Experimental Programme for Autistic Children - Parental and Programme Considerations"

The Geneva Centre for Autism, Communications and Language Disorders will receive \$13,586 to compare the effectiveness of an education program for parents of autistic children (Changing Family Behaviour Program) to the overall Geneva Centre Program in helping autistic children.

For further information contact Carolyn Lennox, Psychometrist, Geneva Centre, Toronto, 783-3381.

"Monitoring and Improving Services Matched to the Needs of Emotionally Disturbed Developmentally Handicapped Adolescents"

North York Centre for Youth Services will receive \$29,611 for a nine-month study. They will research the effectiveness of the Treatment for Youth and Resources Opportunities Program in helping emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded adolescents.

For further information contact Ms Susan Mackle, TYRO Program, Toronto, 222-1151.

"Support Services for Single Adolescent Mothers in Ontario"

The Canadian Council of Social Development in Ottawa will receive \$26,545 for a one-year project. The study will analyze the circumstances of single, adolescent mothers in Ontario by determining the mother's practical social and emotional needs and will develop an overview of the various types of supports and/or services that are available.

For further information contact Geoff Norquay, Canadian Council on Social Development, Ottawa, 728-1865.

The above grants total \$161,000.

The child-related research grants administered through the Ontario Mental Health Foundation total \$219,470 in the first year, with a total of \$395,412 committed to provide support for projects requiring more than one year's funding. They are part of the 1979-80 allotment from the total \$4 million allocation awarded by the Provincial Lottery for research relating to Children's Services.

Grants announced by The Honourable Keith C. Norton, April 2 follow:

"A Longitudinal Prospective Study of Disturbing and Non-Disturbing Children from Pubescence into Adolescence"

C.M. Hincks Treatment Centre of Toronto will receive \$11,897 for the first year of a three-year prospective follow-up study of a group of children who were assessed in 1977 for psychiatric and neurological disturbances.

For further information contact Dr. H. Golombek, C.M. Hincks Treatment Centre, Toronto, 924-1164.

"The Effects of Three Alternative Treatments for Conduct Disordered Adolescents"

Thistletown Regional Centre of Etobicoke will receive \$52,500 for the first year of a four-year study to compare the effectiveness of three procedures (token economy, social learning and cognitive behaviour) for the treatment of these conduct disordered adolescents.

For further information contact Dr. Steven J. Stein or Dr. Jalal Shamsie, Thistletown Regional Centre, Rexdale, 741-1210.

"Biofeedback Training with Retarded Children"

Ongwanada Hospital of Kingston will receive \$30,000 to carry out a one-year evaluation of the effectiveness of biofeedback procedures to train retarded children with multiple physical handicaps.

For further information contact Dr. Noel E. Derrick, Ongwanada Hospital, Kingston, 544-9611.

"Intervening to Support Parents in High Risk Communities: Proposal for Evaluation, Research and Needs Assessment"

Child in the City, University of Toronto, will receive \$41,368 for the first year of a three-year study to evaluate the Child/Parent Centre of the Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre and conduct a needs assessment as part of the project.

For further information contact Susan Hodgson, Child in the City, University of Toronto, 978-6895.

"Parent Therapist Program Residential Treatment Follow-up Study"

Chedoke Child and Family Centre of Hamilton will receive \$17,830 for the first year of a two-year grant to conduct a follow-up study of a previous evaluation which compared the outcome and cost-effectiveness of the Parent Therapist Program and two residential treatment centres.

For further information contact Dr. J.S. Rubenstein, Chedoke Child and Family Centre, Hamilton, 387-1330, Extension 278.

"The Social and Cognitive Skills of 'Socially Withdrawn' Pre-Schoolers and Kindergarteners"

University of Waterloo will receive a one-year grant of \$26,285 to construct a behavioural profile of children who are social isolates in order to ameliorate possible future social rejection and isolation.

For further information contact Dr. Kenneth Rubin, University of Waterloo, Waterloo 885-1211, Extension 3912.

"An Investigation of Optimal Learning Conditions for Exceptional Children"

Carleton University of Ottawa will receive a one-year grant of \$38,744 to conduct a study to determine the most effective feedback techniques for three levels of learning difficulty with three sub-groups of exceptional children, namely children identified as being mentally retarded, or having low Socio-Economic Status (SES) and as having behaviour problems.

For further information contact Dr. Robert M. Knights, Carleton University, Ottawa, 231-5587.

Additional lottery awards will be made on an annual basis until the original \$4 million is fully committed.

CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE

<u>Title</u>	<u>Briefs Received</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Short Term Legislative Amendments (December 1977)	226	*
Local Children's Services Committees (January 1978)	53	*
Information Systems Development	10	*
Children's Residential Care Facilities: Proposed Standards and Guidelines (Sept,1978)	106	*
Standards and Guidelines for Outdoor/Wilderness Programming (June 1979)	3	*
Child Welfare in Ontario: Past, Present and Future (September 1979)	6	Sept. 30
Consultation Paper on Case Information Disclosure (October 1979)	3	Sept. 30
Day Nurseries Services: Proposed Standards and Guidelines (February 1980)	7	Sept . 30

* passed

NEW STANDARDS PAPER RELEASED

The Ministry has released Day Nurseries Services: Proposed Standards and Guidelines, for public consultation.

The proposals reflect the Division's research on day nurseries services, its commitment to high quality services and its desire for relevant and purposeful regulations.

The paper deals with those elements of service essential to a young child's care and guidance. Provisions for the licencing of private-home day care agencies, services for children with special needs and day nursery staff qualifications are also highlighted.

The deadline for consultation submissions is September 30, 1980.

The Division is looking forward to a large response from those who have examined the paper.

Its publication is a major step in the day care field. Therefore, as much feedback as possible is requested to aid in the creation of final standards and guidelines.

Please send submissions or requests for additional copies of the paper to:

The Consultation Task Force
Children's Services Division,
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9

965-3111.

NEW FOSTER CARE CO-ORDINATOR ANNOUNCED

In line with the present reorganization of the Operational Support Branch, Mr. R.K. Glass announced on May 23, 1980, the appointment of Ms Mary Thelander as the new Foster Care Coordinator. "This appointment reflects our long-term commitment to foster care policy review", Mr. Glass stated.

Ms Thelander has been involved in all aspects of the initiatives since their inception. She is also the author of the soon-to-be released consultation paper on standards and guidelines for foster care.

FOSTER CARE UPDATE

At a news conference on May 21, 1980, the Minister, Keith Norton, announced the commencement of the major public awareness campaign on foster care. "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a campaign of this nature has been conducted anywhere in North America," the Minister stated. The advertising campaign is two phase. The first phase involves efforts to correct misconceptions about foster care. "This initiative is also a way of saying 'thank you' to the foster parents and the agency workers for the important work they are doing on behalf of foster children in Ontario."

During questions from members of the news media, Mr. Norton discussed misconceptions, such as the general belief that only special people with special training can be foster parents foster parents are not in short supply (and) all foster children have emotional, physical or behavioural problems.

Mr. Norton also stressed the importance of foster care. He stated that "without foster care, many of these children would be institutionalized or forced to remain with parents who can't properly cope." The Minister pointed out that in "social as well as financial terms, these alternatives are costly to the child and the community."

Mr. Norton stated his commitment to foster care and his firm beliefs that the system works and that the service provided by foster parents is, indeed, a valuable one. "Often the guidance of a foster family is the only chance for these children," he said.

The campaign's second phase, to be run in the Fall, will be the recruitment of new foster parents. It will be a joint effort of the Ministry and local Children's Aid Societies.

The Ministry's investment in foster care goes beyond the public awareness and recruitment campaigns.

Efforts are presently underway to develop a methodological framework and the necessary procedures for establishing a compensation plan for foster parents which should eliminate real and apparent inequities in compensation and reduce apparent conflicts between foster parents and agencies over compensation issues.

A group is identifying the ways and recommending the means by which agencies and foster parents can be provided with the needed support services. Support to the agencies was provided in the form of an additional staff position. The recommended supports for the foster parents vary in type and intensity according to the level of difficulty of the child and the nature of care provided.

To ensure that foster care continues to mature in a manner consistent with Ministry goals, a set of proposed standards and guidelines for foster care has been developed. Intended to enhance further the role of foster parents, and to ensure support for them, this consultation paper is expected to be available in the community this year.

All aspects of the initiatives in foster care are being reviewed in cooperation with representatives of Children's Aid Societies, municipal governments, foster parent associations, probation and aftercare, etc.

IMPROVED PROGRAMS FOR MR

Three provincial ministries have joined in a unified effort to provide improved programs to the 2,920 mentally retarded people in nursing homes and homes for special care. The ministries -- Health, Education and Community and Social Services -- made their joint announcement on March 6th. This enhancement of services stems from an interministerial task force set up last August and discussions with the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded.

The project sets a precedent. Previously, mentally retarded residents of homes for special care and extended care programs had only their basic health needs attended to. Now, for the first time, many of these residents will be given the opportunity to participate in programs and services previously not available to them. Teams made up of government and non-government personnel will assess their needs. Based on these assessments, the residents will then be given the opportunity to receive a variety of developmental training programs which include:

- o Infant stimulation
- o Behaviour training
- o Self-care skills training
- o Communications training
- o Developmental education
- o Special education
- o Physical therapy
- o Speech therapy
- o Pre-vocational and vocational training
- o Basic life skills training
- o Activation programs
- o Recreational activities
- o Reality orientation

Children and young adults will be the first beneficiaries of this program.

The coordination of these new initiatives lies with a Project Management Unit assembled by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The coordinator of this unit reports to the Executive Director of Operations of the Children's Services Division.

Guidance to the Unit is given by an Interministerial Steering Committee. The Committee will ensure that the project is properly implemented and follows the policies of the three ministries involved.

The Committee will also provide information on the project to the Senior Management teams of each Ministry.

As well as enhancing care for the developmentally handicapped, over the next four years the program will create approximately eight hundred new jobs outside the public service.

New opportunities will be made available to professional and support staff including:

- o physiotherapists
- o speech therapists
- o residential counsellors
- o early childhood educators

and others in the social and medical services. The Ministers of Health, Education and Community and Social Service are confident that the goals of the project can be achieved.

PETERBOROUGH PREVENTION COMMITTEE

The Peterborough area office has set up a prevention committee. According to Program Supervisor Jim McNiven: "Essentially what we want to do is to propose a long term and short term approach to prevention development. We want as much as possible to take a 'grass-roots' approach to it involving not only planning but public education elements too. We hope the committee will be able to influence agencies to turn their services around to primary prevention, rather than concentrating solely on secondary and tertiary services."

The major elements the prevention committee will approach are:

- o to develop a long term plan to implement primary prevention;
- o to develop strategies for public education; and
- o to advise the Peterborough office on prevention and to review prevention proposals.

As mentioned earlier, the committee reflects a grass-roots approach. Its makeup includes agency people, those already working in the field of primary prevention and those from within such major disciplines as health, education and social services.

Jim McNiven is confident the committee will succeed in its efforts. "I think we've chosen the people we wanted as carefully as we could. They are all committed to this."

He also feels that the implementation of primary prevention is one of the most important tasks of the Division in the 80's. "In terms of being a program supervisor, it is the most exciting aspect of my job. It is the one thing, above all else, that I really look forward to -- primary prevention work."

FOSTER CARE INITIATIVES IN THE NORTH

A decreasing number of foster homes has presented a problem to this province's foster care program. In order to correct this situation, the Ministry set in motion a series of foster care initiatives. Through the four regions, the Ministry has encouraged the development of small family-like community-based settings.

Here is how one region, the North, has been working with the Ministry on foster care initiatives.

Under Regional Foster Care Coordinator Pam Achurch, the North is developing foster care and strengthening and enhancing current foster care programs. The North will also take advantage of recruitment materials which will be available in the Fall.

The Children's Aid Societies are the basic service providers for foster care in the North. As part of the foster care initiatives, the Ministry provided \$250,000 to each region for staffing positions for CASs. In the North, 11 1/2 positions were allocated for the purpose of recruiting, selecting, training and supporting foster parents.

One special area related to foster care with which the North has been involved is the native population. A regional committee is developing recruitment material specifically to help find native foster homes for native children; the Kenora Children's Aid Society for example, developed an audiovisual package in a native language which explains fostering to native families.

Of major concern is the gap between the number of native children in care and the number of available native foster homes. Several approaches have been taken to try to close the gap:

- o a workshop on native awareness was sponsored by the Ministry through the Rainy River Children's Aid Society. Front line workers from most agencies were made aware of cultural values within native communities.
- o agencies were given seed-money to purchase training materials for foster parents.
- o grants were also given to individual agencies for specific projects to honour and recognize the efforts of foster parents.
- o community dinners are planned for reserves to get people interested in foster care and to recognize those people who have been involved.

Currently a regional foster care committee has been established to train new CAS workers in areas such as policy and procedure, assessment of homes, recruitment of homes and home studies. The committee is made up of local CASs and Probation and Aftercare officers.

Plans are underway within the Region to conduct further native awareness workshops and to develop training packages for foster parents and for foster care coordinators.

For further information on the North's foster care programs, contact:

Pam Achurch
Regional Foster Care Coordinator
Children's Services Division,
COMSOC
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

705-949-8052

MINISTER OPENS CENTRE

The Honourable Keith C. Norton officially opened the Kapuskasing Child and Youth Development Centre (CYDC), Friday, May 9th.

The Centre, offering services in both French and English, is being utilized by families in the Smooth Rock Falls-Kapuskasing-Hearst area of Northern Ontario.

The CYDC is a government approved children's mental health centre. Its bilingual staff includes psychologists, child care workers, social workers and educators who work in conjunction with several consultants in the mental health field.

The Centre provides help to children and youths from one to nineteen with emotional and behavioural problems and promotes community awareness and involvement in children's mental health issues.

The Programs

* Family Consultation

Assessment and treatment of children and youth with emotional and behavioural problems; family therapy; parent counselling, etc.

* Day Treatment

A service for children needing a therapeutic milieu in a school setting.

* Prevention

Community education; services in child development; effective parenting; etc.

8 Community Development

Interagency coordination and planning, community liaison; assistance to self help groups; and other community organization research.

Plans are also being made to provide these services to the area's native population. Therefore, some of the Centre's staff have begun immersion courses in the Cree language and culture.

Following the official opening, Mr. Norton stressed the Ontario government's aim of developing services in the North while recognizing the special needs of Francophones: "..... the role of the government is to allow individuals to help themselves in many and varied fashions. Therefore, the Franco-Ontarian has the right and responsibility to help determine the nature of the social services required by the French community All Francophones should have access to the Ministry's full range and quality of services in their mother tongue It is, therefore, only practical and efficient for us to provide services in French to those who speak French and to serve them in every other way in the context of their own culture."

Mr. Norton was accompanied by the Honourable Rene Brunelle, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and M.P.P. (Cochrane North, which includes Kapuskasing) and Abbie Lavigne Allan, the Ministry's French Language Services Coordinator.

NEW AREA MANAGER

The Division is pleased to announce the appointment of Barry Whalen as the new Area Manager of the London office. Barry replaces Michael Ennis, who is now the Regional Director of the Southwest.

Mr. Whalen brings to the job experience as a program supervisor. In addition, he is experienced in community planning and service development, and as a case worker, supervisor and administrator in child welfare programs.

We congratulate him on his appointment and wish him continued success.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL STAFF SEMINAR

The similarity of problems in providing services to children in all program areas was a major topic of discussion at the Southwest Region's first Regional Staff Seminar, held recently in Cambridge, Ontario.

Program Managers, senior professional staff from all Division programs and their senior support staff attended the one and a half day seminar focussing on common systems issues in providing services to children in the Southwest Region. Participants heard presentations on the Regional Organization and the Southwest Region's financial picture.

Through the enrollment-based approach municipalities will reimburse centres for children whose parents are in need, for the duration of the child's enrollment. The approach should lead to a relationship between the parents in need and the centre corresponding to that between the full-fee paying parent and the centre. The municipality will also pay the centre a fee which corresponds to what the full fee-paying parent pays.

Overall the new approach should:

- o eliminate a number of the absenteeism calculations and the inequities associated with them;
- o correspond generally to existing practices and procedures among municipalities and providers for budgeting, rate setting and billing;
- o move towards standardizing elements of existing practices enrollment, rate setting, vacation periods, etc. and;
- o be at least as cost-effective as current practices

Hamilton-Wentworth has had this approach implemented on a pilot basis. The implementation of the enrollment-based approach will occur in 1981 with provision for a two-year phase-in period to be negotiated between the Ministry and specific municipalities.

CHILD ABUSE TRAINING FILMS

The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, with the assistance of a grant from the Ministry's Child Abuse Program, has completed province-wide distribution of the first Ontario

produced films on abuse. The following films, completed last Spring with the assistance of grants from the Child Abuse Program, will be sent to virtually every Children's Aid Society in the province. All agencies which deal with children, and professional groups and volunteers in all communities, will be able to obtain these films easily. They are:

An Unexplained Injury

Produced by Instructional Media Services, University of Toronto. In this film, the narrator follows a specific case of child abuse, enacted through dramatized episodes, commenting on the main issues and the various actions and interventions of the professional. The "core" film is accompanied by six supplementary films which describe various professional responsibilities regarding child abuse.

The Social Worker as a Courtroom Witness

Produced by the University of Windsor and Legal Assistance of Windsor, deals with the presentation of child abuse cases in court. The film is useful for social workers and any other professionals who may be asked to give evidence in court. Details concerning these films may be obtained from Children's Aid Societies.

All Ontario Children's Aid Societies also have the six slide/tape program training package "We Can Help" which deals with aspects of child abuse and is very useful for interprofessional training. A slide/tape program on child abuse reporting responsibilities of professionals is also available at most CASs. Agencies, professional, and volunteer groups may borrow all or part of these packages from their local Children's Aid Society.

Further information:

Child Abuse Program
COMSOC
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9
(416) 965-3130

FAMILY COURT PROJECT

A short-term project introduced in Peel County earlier this year to develop a 'model' child welfare court will be evaluated during the summer to ascertain whether its benefits can be made available in other areas of the Province.

The project, a joint effort of the local Children's Aid Society and Peel Family Court Judges, is coordinated and funded by the Division.

A series of seminars for agency staff, utilizing 'mock' proceedings, have concentrated on selected Court procedures and practices, rules of evidence and attempts to settle matters out of Court.

Further information on this project will be available in a future newsletter.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDED

Why does a child become antisocial? What factors lead to antisocial behaviour in children? A project being funded by the Ministry's Research and Statistics Branch will attempt to answer these questions. Called "Comparison of Hard-to-Serve Adolescents and Their Siblings" the project, to be carried out by McMaster University in Hamilton, has a twofold objective:

- o to learn the combination of factors that may contribute to a child becoming severely antisocial; and
- o to learn the combination of factors that appear to be protective, i.e. those factors that contribute to a satisfactory outcome in children who are at increased risk of becoming antisocial.

The project proposal, grew out of a 1978 workshop sponsored by the Laidlaw Foundation, on antisocial behaviour. At the workshop the need for research on which rational early intervention and treatment programs could be based was stressed.

Over 40% of seriously antisocial children have severe psychological and social problems when they reach adulthood. Unfortunately, at present, no technique aimed at preventing or treating antisocial problems has been very effective. The new project will attempt to reverse this and reduce a serious information gap in the area of antisocial behaviour.

Top priority has been given to "Comparison of Hard-to-Serve Adolescents and their Siblings" by the Ministry, considering the project's relevance to prevention. Effective preventive or treatment techniques for antisocial children are lacking. Consequently these children have become a serious problem in the area of mental health and social services. The difficulties they encounter in later life may lead them to prison, skid row and drug addiction.

"Comparison of Hard-to-Serve Adolescents and their Siblings" will provide the Ministry with a starting point for more effective prevention and treatment. According to the project's head, Dr. Dan Offord: ".....the development of effective prevention or treatment techniques for antisocial behaviour disorders in children and adolescents should be a major goal for children's mental health professionals."

RESEARCH REPORTS ON FOSTER CARE

In "A Second Look at Foster Homes and Adolescents" 1980, Dr. Barbara Rosenblum presents the findings of a survey in the Hamilton-Wentworth Region and the Halton Region of 219 Children's Aid foster parents and the adolescents placed in their homes.

The paper reports on characteristics of the adolescents, natural parents' situation including the high incidence of marital breakdown and some indication of social workers' lack of awareness of the economic circumstances of these families.

Findings about several other topics are also presented. These include foster parents' participation in fostering-related activities and the effects of housing space on foster parent decision-making. Several policy recommendations are made and a number of the recommendations included in an earlier report are expanded or clarified.

"A Second Look at Foster Homes and Adolescents" (1980) is available through the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, 143 Wentworth Street South, Hamilton, Ontario. L8N 2Z1. The author's earlier study "Foster Homes and Adolescents" (1977) is also available. Each publication costs \$5.00. Both can be ordered through the Hamilton-Wentworth Children's Aid Society. Please make cheques payable to The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth.

* * *

Coming up in future editions of this newsletter

- A look at the Division's final standards for children's residential care facilities
- A complete update on local children's services committees.

- A feature on adoption in Ontario
- Francophone Initiatives updated
- A look at native programming
- More news from the four regions.

* * *

This newsletter talks about the Division. It also listens. If you have any comments or suggestions, we'd like to hear from you.

If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have recently changed your address please contact:

The Editor
Children's Services Newsletter
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 1E9

* * *

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Children's Services

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Hon. Keith C. Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division

Editor's Note

This newsletter is devoted to a special area of Division policy -- Local Children's Services Committees. There are significant things to report. All four Local Children's Services Committees have completed their first phase and are now embarking on phase II activities.

Three head office staff are currently working on Local Committee development. Walter Tuohy is responsible for long range policy development for Local Committees and related areas. Malcolm Shookner and Philippa (Pip) McKen are responsible, along with Regional and Area staff, for the development of the four LCSC now in place as well as the two new models (municipal and northern) expected to start up in the next year. They also share the responsibility for voluntary coordination projects throughout the province.

The following feature has been prepared to give you an updated look at a Divisional priority. If, after reading this newsletter you would like to comment please contact:

The Editor.
Children's Services Newsletter,
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 1E9

Vol. 4, No. 3, September 1980.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Developing Local Children's Services Committees has been a priority area for the Children's Services Division since 1977, and the task at hand has been challenging. It is easy to say that certain provincial responsibilities are to be transferred to broadly representative groups at the local level, but much harder to do. Development of local Committees has required a variety of people to work together, even though their interests may differ or even on occasion, diverge. Service providers, representatives of provincial and local governments, consumers, citizens, volunteers -- all have perspectives to bring to bear and much hard work has gone into the development of groups which, while not always harmonious, are truly representative.

This feature newsletter gives us the opportunity to provide you with up-to-date information on Local Children's Services Committees. We will be acquainting you with the activities of the first four developmental models, and sharing the Ministry's plans regarding future Committees. We hope you will find the newsletter useful and informative; your reactions, positive or negative, are of interest to us. If you have concerns, comments or questions about any of the issues raised in this article, please contact Malcolm Shookner or Philippa (Pip) McKen, 11th Floor, 700 Bay Street, LuCliff Place, Toronto, Ontario (Phone - 965-5339).

II. MINISTER'S SPEECH OF MARCH 28, 1980 COMMITMENT TO COMMITTEES

At a recent gathering of Local Children's Services Committees representatives, the Honourable Keith Norton stressed the Ministry's strong and continuing commitment to the development of Local Committees. One of his reasons for wanting to address the group, he said was to provide:

"a re-affirmation of the very strong commitment my Ministry and I have towards bringing Local Committees to a fully mature operating state across the province."

He spoke of the Ministry's expectations for Committees, which he described as:

"a situation in Ontario in which Local Committees cover the province and have full responsibility under the aegis of local government for the allocation of funds for all services within a given jurisdiction to children with special needs."

Since the formation of Local Committees was first announced some three years ago, doubts have been expressed as to whether the province would ever delegate genuine authority to local groups. Many especially questioned whether the province would hand over to local groups, under the aegis of local government, the

responsibility of allocating funds among providers of children's services.

The Minister's words should reassure people that its commitment is there, perhaps even stronger now than three years ago because the experience gained from Committees thus far has been most positive. While acknowledging the existence of short-falls in certain areas of Committee functioning, the Minister stated:

"Everything that has transpired since the beginning of phase I of the Committees' development has reinforced my belief that we are on the right track".

With that in mind, let us look at the four Committees themselves. These Committees are the realization of current ministry policy and their activities, their progress, even their problems, can provide future direction for us all.

III. CURRENT STATE OF DEVELOPMENT

The Windsor and Essex Children's Services Committee completed its first phase in February, 1980. The Committee and its staff are analyzing information on needs and resources as a basis for priority-setting. Through continuing discussions with the Division's London Area Office a plan is being devised for the Committee to review budgets and become familiar with the Ministry's budget cycle. This Committee has been the pacesetter to date.

The Hastings and Prince Edward Children's Services Committee completed its first phase at the end of May, 1980. Because of the large geographic area of the two Counties, the "core" Committee has established five "regional groups" to involve communities at the local level in the collection and analysis of information and as an organized voice for the needs of children in their respective communities. Consumers of service and front-line workers have become actively involved through the regional groups, as well as school principals and other representatives of the education system, among others. The "core" Committee's Hard-To-Serve Task Force has reviewed a number of difficult cases and has assisted agencies to coordinate plans for improved services.

The York Children's Services Committee completed its first phase at the end of June, 1980. The Committee is completing its tasks with a strong base of community support and voluntary participation. The needs assessment study, for example, was conducted through the work of 29 volunteers recruited and trained to conduct interviews with 106 agencies and 75 "key informants". With only one municipal representative in the 13 person Committee, extra effort is being devoted to maintaining a good relationship with the municipality by the Committee Chairman and Executive Director. The Committee has also strengthened its link with the education system by expanding its membership to provide seats for both regional boards of education.

In Regional Niagara, the first phase will have been completed by the end of July, 1980. Considerable attention has been given to the question of genuine consumer participation in the children's services system, from the service delivery level in the agencies to the planning and coordinating level in the Children's Services Committee. A definition of "consumer" has been adopted and plans are in the works to arrange a process whereby consumers are elected as a first step towards their participation. The Committee has also developed a "case resolution process" for hard-to-serve children. Through a newsletter and community workshop, this approach has received broad support from service providers.

IV. PHASE I ACTIVITIES OF CSC'S

i) Needs Assessment

A key task for Committees in phase I has been to conduct a needs assessment. Because there is much uncertainty as to how a valid needs assessment should be conducted, the four Committees have taken somewhat different approaches. Questionnaires and interview schedules, for instance, vary with Committee priorities.

All Committees have tried to include as many sources of information as possible. While time, money, and availability of information limit data collection Committees have generally agreed that the following perspectives should be tapped to create a balanced picture of community needs:

1. Consumers (Both actual and potential)

The consumer has a unique perspective on the service system, for his insights concern the impact that the service delivery system has on the people it serves. Therefore most Committees have tried to bring a consumer perspective to their needs assessment; in Windsor-Essex for example, discussions were held with groups of adolescents at their high schools.

2) Service Deliverers

Both the chief executive officers of agencies and front line workers have important insights to provide. The former will probably have the overall picture of the system, the latter will have the day-to-day awareness of service issues.

3) Key Informants

These are people who wield influence in a community (e.g. politicians) or people who know the system because of involvements in related areas (e.g. recreation).

4) Use of Social Indicators

This is the use of demographic data (e.g. number of single parents, number of low income families, etc.) to help judge the potential need for services in different areas. The Province is providing major assistance here.

Committees have varied in terms of how they tapped these sources, and in the weighting of these perspectives.

The importance of the needs assessments will become evident in phase II of the Committees' activities, in which there is responsibility for planning and prioritizing the needs of children, basing this on an analysis of needs assessment data. The work of the York Committee illustrates one possible approach to the task of of needs assessment.

- the Committee hired a consultant to design and implement a needs assessment strategy.
- the questionnaire was administered to executive directors of 106 child serving agencies. Day nurseries were included, but other mainstream services for children (e.g. recreational programs) were not.
- because of the expense of having the consultant do all the interviews, and the low response rate for a mailed questionnaire, volunteers were used to administer the questionnaire.
- the consultant trained 29 volunteers and designed a detailed set of instructions for their use.
- each volunteer conducted four or five interviews. The response rate has been 99%.
- the information gathered will provide base data about services in York Region. Data includes: legislative mandate of agency, funding source, clientele (age, sex, etc.) problem being assisted, helping techniques used, the interviewee's opinion concerning what service needs remain unmet, what services need to

be provided to fill these unmet needs, and the respondents' impression of the C.S.C.

- next is a survey of 75 key informants who will be asked their opinion on the needs of York Region. The questions will be designed to check the validity of the responses gained through the agency director survey. Volunteers will also be used to conduct this survey, in many cases the same people as did the needs assessment.

Undoubtedly, it is hard to do a valid needs assessment, the art being in its infancy. Many questions remain unanswered, and problems occur as Committees learn the ropes. The potential, however, of being able to make services more responsive to the needs of children justifies the time and effort devoted to needs assessments .

ii) Hard-to-Serve Child

Another important phase I responsibility for CSC's has been to develop methods of helping the hard-to-serve child. Because the hard-to-serve child, almost by definition, probably needs help from a number of different service agencies, the broadly representative CSC's provide an ideal forum for addressing the problems that the hard-to-serve child experiences.

It is even difficult to define the hard-to-serve child with precision. If a child is not getting the help he needs, that may be due to service gaps in his community, or restrictive agency eligibility criteria. It may also be, however, that the child needs help from

several different agencies, but that these agencies are unable to co-ordinate their efforts sufficiently to provide the needed service.

Because what constitutes a hard-to-serve child varies so greatly from community to community, depending on the particular mix of services each has, the CSC's have taken individual approaches as deemed appropriate to the local context.

In Windsor-Essex, the Committee's Executive Assistant receives submissions concerning individual hard-to-serve cases from agencies in the community. He then forms, for each case, a small committee of service providers whose special expertise is needed to deal with that case. Each committee meets to identify the resources that could help the child, and then recommends a program plan to the agency responsible. The committees can also bring issues to the attention of the CSC., with recommendations for action; this might include, for example, identification of a particular service gap.

In York, a placement Committee meets twice monthly on different individual cases. This Committee is designing a model to assist the hard-to-serve child, and has helped agencies to develop ways of sharing foster care records.

In Hastings-Prince Edward, an inter-agency hard-to-serve task force has been formed to develop program plans for hard-to-serve cases, as well as to make recommendations on service gaps

to the core Committee. This task force is broadly representative of local services, and includes representatives from Children's Aid Societies, Courts, Education, and other child serving programs. This Committee also has allocated \$5,000 from its budget for purchasing needed services for hard-to-serve children, at the discretion of the task force. The Committee will shortly be hiring a special case co-ordinator who will co-ordinate case activities on behalf of hard to serve children.

In Niagara, the hard-to-serve model developed by the Committee was discussed at a community forum held in May. Agencies and individuals were encouraged to attend and to respond to the model. The sub-committee responsible for hard-to-serve children will be refining the model as needed. Community reaction has been generally favourable, and the sub-committee will proceed with implementation after refining the model as necessary.

In all cases, the CSC's approach to hard to serve children is being worked out in conjunction with Children's Services Division personnel in Area offices. The Special Services Unit, formerly at head office, has been decentralized to the area level, enabling CSD staff to work closely with agencies on difficult cases, and with CSC's in developing hard-to-serve strategies.

Despite the different approaches being taken by the CSC's, common themes can be seen. For example:

- CSC's agree that they are not, and should not be seen as "another agency".

Rather, they should act as facilitators of case co-ordination, by assisting service agencies to provide services in co-operation with one another.

- Because Committees presently do not have authority over service agencies, co-ordination is informal rather than legally mandated. CSC's have concentrated on developing their expertise in the hard-to-serve area through analysis of the resources and needs of the community. Their recommendations, therefore, are backed by substantial knowledge and expertise.
- The give and take of bargaining among agencies, facilitated by CSC's, is what will ultimately make the community more responsive to the needs of its hard-to-serve children.

V. LINKAGES

In order for Local Children's Services Committees to truly represent the needs and priorities of their communities, they must develop linkages, or working relationships, with a wide range of groups.

As indicated in the Consultation Paper entitled Local Children's Services Committees: Planning for the future, there are three major constituencies with which the Committees must forge strong links. These are: local governments, service providers and service consumers. The first linkage, local government, will be discussed in a later section. The second group, service providers, have organized

themselves in a variety of ways to select representatives to serve on the Local Children's Services Committees. In Niagara, for example, the services are divided into sectors, some of which are Child Welfare; Children's Mental Health Centres, Children's Institutions and Boarding Homes; Probation, Aftercare and Training Schools; Health; Education; Mental Retardation. Each sector meets and selects a representative to speak for its interests on the Committee. In Windsor and Essex County, service providers have participated in a voluntary Children's Services Committee since 1971. This body became a natural constituency from which representatives could be selected for the new Children's Services Committee.

The third group, consumers of service are much more difficult to link up to Local Committees because they are largely unorganized. A later section of this newsletter describes attempts being made to create linkages that will result in effective consumer participation.

There are three other local bodies that, while not specifically identified in the consultation paper, have a compelling interest in children's services. Those are: Boards of Education, local health authorities and District Working Groups for the Mentally Retarded. The Children's Services Committees are developing linkages with each of these bodies in a variety of ways.

Local Boards of Education are formally represented by membership on the Children's Services Committees in York, Niagara and Windsor-Essex. The Hastings-Prince Edward Committee has an Education Sub-Committee which brings the three boards of education

into regular contact with the Committee's Executive Director and representatives.

Local health authorities, whether regional health units, district health councils or practioners, are formally represented on both the Niagara and York Committees. In Windsor-Essex the Committee's Executive Director is having discussions with the Medical Officer of Health to explore the best methods of linking to the health system.

District Working Groups for the Mentally Retarded and/or Local Associations for the Mentally Retarded are formally represented on both the York and Niagara Committees. Discussions at the staff level in both Hastings-Prince Edward and Windsor-Essex have resulted in working relationships with their respective working groups.

In addition to these formally prescribed linkages with major service systems having an interest in children, there are a host of community groups, professional associations and others wanting to be involved in the work of the Committee. Each Committee is tapping this interest and expertise by recruiting volunteers for its various sub-Committees that are addressing specific issues.

The next two sections deal with two major linkages for CSC's - local government, and consumers.

i) Local Committees and Local Government

The importance of local government's role in the development of CSC's

cannot be overstated. While the province will remain responsible for setting policy and standards so that basic levels of service are guaranteed, Committees are ultimately going to be accountable to local government. Provincial funds for children's services will flow through local government. These funds, added to the municipalities' share for the costs of these services, will be apportioned by local government in accordance with the overall plan of the Local Committee.

To ensure smooth transfer of authority from the provincial level to the local level, the "phased" or developmental" approach is being used.

This means simply that Local Committees are gradually assuming increased responsibilities as they gain experience, and only when they are ready will they be given the responsibility of planning for the allocation of funds to service providing agencies. This gives local government officials and service providers a chance to define their respective roles and responsibilities, to improve communications, and to clear up stereotyped misconceptions about each other. To use a sports analogy, team members train together so that they can work well together, and this training stands them in good stead when the game gets tougher.

Municipal interests are represented on the Committees in a variety of ways. Municipal people sit on all Committees (the numbers range from one in York to eight in Hastings-Prince Edward.) In Hastings-Prince Edward an alderman from Belleville chairs the Committee, and in Windsor-Essex the chairman will be a municipal official in phase III of the Committee's operations. In Niagara

the chairman is a Regional Councillor. The common thread though, in all Committees, is that there is a reporting and accountability relationship to local government.

Further clarification of municipal involvement in the delivery and financing of children's services will be developed over the next year. The Minister will be meeting regularly with the Municipal Liaison Committee to discuss reports prepared by the Associations of Municipalities of Ontario/Associations of Counties and Regions of Ontario (AMO-ACRO) Subcommittee on Children's Services. These reports will examine, among other things, overall cost sharing responsibilities.

ii) Consumer Input

A Committee lacking consumer involvement is missing a vital ingredient for good planning. In the course of seeking out this involvement Committees have had to deal with some difficult questions:

- Who are the "consumers"? Children and adolescents being served in CSD programs? Their parents? How can we represent client groups that have no organized consumer voice?
- Can consumers who are reasonably objective, articulate, and representative be identified? Are the consumers who speak up necessarily representative of consumers as a group?
- Is representation on the CSC the best way to gain consumer participation? Should other ways (e.g. sub committee formation) be used as well?

While it might be tempting on the basis of efficiency to ignore the issue, the importance of the consumer perspective cannot be over-stated.

First, to definitions. The Niagara CSC defines consumer as follows:

"a child or member of the immediate family of a child who is receiving or has recently received a service for children with special needs. (A child with special needs is defined as a child with needs related to or created by physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, or other handicaps of children.)"

This definition is being used by some of the voluntary coordination projects discussed in a later section of this feature, and may come into general use among Committees.

The Niagara Committee has given much thought and effort to the issue of consumer representation. They have developed several principles to guide them in their activities in this area:

Involvement of all in processes and decisions having bearing on their own lives is good - for the development of individuals and the development and integration of societies.

Individuals in democratic societies have a fundamental right to participate in the processes and functions of the state (these include social and health services).

Exercise of that right is healthy in redress of the power disparity inherent in many public processes.

Such participation may be especially important in situations of monopoly, especially where consumer dependency is a factor.

Consumer participation can be a useful planning tool as well, in articulation of problems and design and implementation of solutions.

The Committee is proposing that its structure be changed to allow four consumers as defined to sit on the CSC by the start of phase II. A long term goal of this Committee is the creation of a network of consumers that could give feedback to the CSC on consumer issues, and would provide a vehicle for the election of consumers. The CSC is also planning to work with agencies in the community wanting to add the consumer perspective to their programs.

The Windsor-Essex Committee has addressed the issue in a task-focused manner by having consumer representation on, for example, its Autism Task Force. The CSC felt that the knowledge brought by parents to this specific program area would be extremely valuable for planning purposes. This allows parents to concentrate fully on the problem area most important to them, and also provides a training ground for potential new Committee members.

As with other issues, the CSC's are responding to this issue in various ways to reflect local needs and priorities. There is complete agreement that the input of consumers is vital; how this general principle is carried out will vary from community to community.

VI. EVALUATION OF CSC'S

In order to learn as much as possible about Local Committee development (the problems and pitfalls, the successes), the Ministry has hired an independent consultant to evaluate the Committees.

Community Concern Associates have evaluated phase I of the Committees' development. The evaluators have visited each Local Committee three times during phase I. While on site, they have sat in on Committee meetings and interviewed Committee members, staff and other key figures locally. In addition to site visits, the Committees' work is being monitored through minutes of meetings, correspondence, newsletters and other documentation provided by the Committees to the evaluators.

On the basis of this information and observation, three reports are being prepared for each Committee and submitted simultaneously to the Committee and the Ministry. The information and analysis in these reports has been helpful to the Committees and to the Ministry for monitoring potentially troublesome issues and identifying problems needing to be solved. The reports have also provided valuable input to the Ministry and the Committees about the fulfillment of their responsibilities in phase I and their readiness to proceed into the second phase.

When all Committees have completed phase I, a final report on this phase will be submitted by the evaluators to the Committees and the Ministry,

summarizing the lessons learned from the first phase, issues to be attentive to and the progress achieved. Phases II and III will also be carefully evaluated by the same firm. Copies of the reports are available at the Committee offices, and at all area offices of the Children's Services Division. The results of the final report on phase I will be highlighted in a future edition of this newsletter.

VII PLANS FOR NEW CSC's

i) A Municipal Model

The Consultation Paper entitled Local Children's Services Committees: Planning for the Future identified three models for Local Committee structure: a mixed model including service providers and consumers, as well as municipal representatives; a municipal model composed entirely of municipal elected officials, and a model composed primarily of service providers. The first four models to be selected, in August, 1978, were all a mixture of service providers, consumers and municipal officials.

At that time, the Minister announced his intention to test a municipal model and invited municipalities to submit further proposals. By the winter of 1980, two municipalities, Regional Waterloo and Regional Ottawa-Carleton, had developed models that were approved by their respective councils and forwarded to the Minister for his consideration.

A wide-ranging review process within the Ministry and with officials from the Ministry of Inter-governmental Affairs was conducted to ensure that the best choice was made, and in June 1980 the Minister announced that Regional

Waterloo had been selected as the municipal model. Officials of the Ministry and the Region will be meeting this summer to work out an agreement that will allow the model to start operating before the Autumn.

ii) A Northern Model

The concept of "local" coordination takes on an entirely new meaning when applied to the vast districts making up northern Ontario. So does the concept of "accountability to local government" when in several northern districts it is quite possible to find twenty-five or thirty local governments, not linked by any umbrella organization, as well as numerous Indian bands. The existence of miles of unorganized territories adds another wrinkle to a fabric that is already far from smooth.

These factors make some of the fundamental principles of local coordination policy (e.g. ultimate accountability of Committees to local government, maximum community participation at each stage of Committee development) difficult to implement. The Ministry therefore, has provided some extra resources to the north, to assist communities in designing a structure for a local Children's Services Committee that is appropriate to the unique conditions encountered there. In the Thunder Bay District and the Algoma District local groups have been given a Ministry grant to hire a staff person to do the community consultation that is needed if a truly representative Children's Services Committee is to be formed. In Sudbury-Manitoulin, a local group is receiving funds to engage in voluntary coordination activities, mainly in the area of establishing a data base for use by the community.

Over the next year, these groups will grapple with local coordination issues, and try to come up with implementation plans that will work in the north. The groups will be trying to become more representative, by adding native persons, francophones, consumers, people from unorganized territories - all those, in fact, who have not previously affected decisions about how services are organized, as well as those who have. The groups will also be working closely with representatives of local government so that a structure can be developed that will ultimately allow for accountability to local government.

It is hoped that the groups will have final proposals into the Ministry in spring 1981, and that a decision can be made shortly thereafter as to the locale for a northern model.

VIII. VOLUNTARY CO-ORDINATION PROJECTS

The need for service co-ordination exists throughout Ontario and not just in those communities where there are Children's Services Committees. The Ministry, therefore, has provided funds to groups wishing to start some of the activities that the CSC's are doing in phase I.

Four groups received funding in 1979-80 for such tasks as creating resource inventories, producing and circulating information (e.g. newsletters), studying the needs of their community, and helping agencies to work together to meet those needs. These communities are -

- 1) Prescott Russell
- 2) Stormont, Dundas, Gengarry
- 3) Peterborough, Victoria, Haliburton and
- 4) Sudbury-Manitoulin

In 1980-81 three more groups (in Halton Region, Simcoe County and the Region of Peel) have received seed money for similar activities. Groups in Lanark County, the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth and County of Leeds-Grenville among others are being considered for seed money.

These groups have had some significant achievements both in the products they have developed and in the community processes they have created. The groups and their achievements will provide a solid lease for eventual province wide local co-ordination.

That is what has been happening with Local Children's Services Committees to date. If you would like further information or clarification about the Committees, please contact Philippa (Pip) McKen or Malcolm Shookner: 11th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9, telephone 965 - 5339.

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Children's Services

Ontario

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Hon. Keith C. Norton, Minister
Robert D. Carman, Deputy Minister

Judge George Thomson
Associate Deputy Minister
Children's Services Division



Vol. 4, No. 4, October, 1980.

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Outdoor/Wilderness Handbook to be Released	8	The paper's first objective is to communicate the Division's guiding principles in its search for an appropriate approach to protecting the child's right to be heard. The overall approach to child advocacy and the specific initiatives and proposals discussed in the paper are based on the following principles which include:
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1981 Is Year for Disabled	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o the parents as the child's first and natural advocate
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New Changes	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o the availability of an adult third party advocate if the parents involved cannot or will not represent their child

- o participation in the decision-making process by the child
- o the need for advocacy techniques and procedures that a child can understand
- o safeguarding the rights of the child in care of the Province

The Division has been quite active in the field of child advocacy. The discussion paper's second objective is to examine some previously undertaken initiatives. Below is a brief description of some Division actions:

- The role of the parent as the child's primary advocate has been strengthened by amendments to the Child Welfare Act. The amendments have given parents access to understandable advocacy techniques and procedures.
- If a child requires independent legal representation, section 20 of the Child Welfare Act allows judges to appoint a legal representative for that child.
- The child should have the right to participate in decision-making. Advocacy techniques and procedures must also be understandable to the child. Amendments to the Child Welfare Act have established procedural rules which place heavy emphasis upon pre-trial procedures. These would allow all parties to be better heard than is usually possible in the court.
- Crown ward reviews safeguard the rights of children in the care of the Province. An amendment to the Child Welfare Act provides an administrative review of the progress of all Crown wards every two years.

The Child Advocacy Information System (CAIS)

This tracking system enables one to keep track of where a child has been within children's services. The goals of the CAIS fall into two major categories of essential service delivery functions: case management and resource management. The Child Advocacy Information System is being introduced first in all residential programs as well as probation and aftercare services.

A Child Advocacy Unit Within the Division

This has recently been established within the Division's head office.

Two of its eight tasks will be:

- Following up of situations which the Child Advocacy Information System identify as areas of concern, and
- Assisting and training staff in child care services to hear and represent the voice of the child.

The closing section of Child Advocacy: Implementing the Child's Right to be Heard deals with yet-unresolved issues relating to advocacy. These include:

- Admission into Care Procedures.

Should the older child have a voice in the decision to be placed in facilities such as a mental health centre or a children's institution?
- Advocacy techniques for young or otherwise incapable children.

Younger children or those who are severally developmentally handicapped are more in need of hearing protections than older or more mature children. Conversely, though, most of the changes implemented regarding advocacy are directed to the older child's right to be heard. Developing appropriate advocacy techniques for the younger child or the child unable to be heard will be one of the Division's tasks.

The Children's Services Division is committed to the child's right to be heard. The release of the paper on advocacy is another major step in realizing that commitment. One way of stressing the relevance of the Division's advocacy effort is to note that each of the paper's proposals has been adopted at least somewhere within provincial programs now operating.

As mentioned, the paper is available for consultation. If you would like to read and/or respond to it, contact:

The Consultation Task Force
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9

and you will be sent a copy.

PREVENTION GRANTS ANNOUNCED

In the past, large proportions of children's services expenditures have been directed at treating problems, many of which may not have occurred had there been adequate prevention.

Recognizing this, the Division has been focussing on primary prevention to minimize the occurrence and recurrence of problems.

As part of that effort, grants have recently been awarded to test selected programs for high risk populations. Totalling approximately \$626,000 annually for three years, the money is part of a \$1 million allocation announced by the Honourable Keith Norton last October. As other projects now before the Ministry are approved, the total will rise to \$700,000.

The regions will receive \$75,000 each to complete the \$1 million allocation. The money will be used to encourage agencies in each region to initiate or extend prevention projects.

The following projects, announced June 24th, will be used to test prevention theories and to provide the Ministry with information which may help determine future prevention policy.

Sudbury-Algonia Sanitorium, a Sudbury mental health facility will receive up to \$117,000 for a program aimed at families and teens in three high risk communities. This project, serving large francophone and native populations, will provide recreational activities and counseling for teens while at the same time providing help in both languages to assist parents to develop their parenting skills. Workers will also be working with Ojibway families to help them increase their language and communication skills. For further information contact: Dr. Tony Miller, Director, Community Clinics, (705-675-9192).

The Parent Preschool Resources Centre and the Community Services Boards of Pinecrest-Queensway, and Lowertown in Ottawa will receive up to \$113,000 to develop parent-child drop-in programs, self-help parent groups, and links with crisis support services in two high risk communities. These are communities considered to have a high risk of developing social problems because of such factors as a high proportion of single parents, families

dependent on welfare, population density, and limited recreational facilities. For further information contact: Bob Cooke, Co-ordinator, Pinecrest-Queensway Community Centre, (613-820-4922).

Adventure Place, a children's mental health centre in North York, will receive up to \$100,000 for a project aimed at identifying children with a high risk of developing social problems due to their living situations and helping the parents of those children improve their parenting skills. In addition, through this project, workers will also go into day care centres and classrooms and help teachers and day care staff work with potential problem children. For further information contact: Clara Wills, Adventure Place Director, (416-630-4504).

Waterloo-Lutherwood, a children's mental health centre in Waterloo will receive up to \$90,000 to develop support programs for children and families in a community considered to have a high risk of developing social problems because of such factors as a high proportion of single parents, families dependent on welfare, population density, limited recreational facilities and so on. The project will also aim at encouraging the development of community groups and leaders to carry on self-help work.

For further information contact: Rev. Dieter E. Kays, Lutherwood Executive Director, (519 - 884-1470).

The Jamaican-Canadian Association in Toronto will receive up to \$60,000 for home visits, parents meetings, booster programs for children, and shelter for children in crisis. This project is aimed

at serving the immigrant community in the Jane-Finch area of North York. For further information contact: Mr. Mel Thompson, President, Jamaican-Canadian Association, Toronto, (416 - 223-1354).

Stay Healthy Early Program in Peterborough will receive up to \$60,000 to provide a help for pregnant women such as single, teenage and first time mothers considered to have a high risk of developing parenting problems. This assistance will continue through pregnancy and into the child's infancy and pre-school years. For further information contact: Dr. Ralph F. Hull, Consultant, (705 - 743-2671).

The Toronto Board of Education will receive up to \$41,000 to provide infant day care and instruction in child care and development to teenage mothers in the following four inner city high schools: Central Technical, Central Commerce, Harbord Collegiate and Bickford Park High School. The project will also include vocational training, counseling and academic upgrading for the mothers. For further information contact: Julie Mathia, Consultant, Toronto Board of Education, (416 - 598-4931).

Implementing primary prevention has been a desired goal of the Division since its inception in 1977.

This newsletter will continue to report on any significant developments regarding primary prevention.

DEVELOPING TRAINING WORKPLANS

The intent of the Ministry's current policy paper on Educational Leave and Assistance can be summed up using a single excerpt:

"Training is a management responsibility."

To that end four Training Advisors, from the Management Improvement Branch, are available to advise, consult and assist managers in developing their staff.

Ms Sydney Misener is the Children's Services Training Advisor. Reporting to the Executive Director, she has been with the Division since September, 1979.

Her major task has been to develop a Divisional training workplan. A sampling of the workplan for 1980/81 includes:

1. The provision of mandatory training for Probation and Aftercare Officers, which will prepare them for Incremental Exams.
2. The development of programs for the more experienced Probation Officer. The content of the program is determined by the commonalities appearing in the Annual Training Plan and the advice and consultation of the Probation and Aftercare Training Committee. At this point the development is underway for only one of a possible four workshops.

During the week of November 3, 1980, Michael Blugerman, a private clinician, consultant and trainer in

social work will be offering a four-day program in family dynamics. The objective is not to turn Probation Officers into family therapists, but to further develop their ability to assess families and to provide a theoretical framework for some of the difficult decisions they are required to make. Emphasis will be placed on the dynamics of the separation and reintegration of children and families.

3. The Identification and Management of Potentially Suicidal Children. This one and half day program is available on demand to direct care staff across the province.

The curriculum developed by Barbara Fitchette, an authority on adolescent suicide, will focus on providing a theoretical basis on which to understand suicide and to assess the risk potential. Participants will also have an opportunity to discuss actual cases and to practice the recommended approaches.

Although this program is aimed at direct care staff, it is recommended that supervisors be trained first, or at least included in the sessions for staff.

4. The Manager as Trainer and Developer. Consistent with decentralization and the delegation of the responsibility for training and development, is the increased role of local managers in the development of their staff.

To better equip managers to identify the needs of and resource for their staff, a two day training program developed jointly by Children's Services and the Civil Service Commission will be offered in late November.

5. Orientation for Program Supervisors. A representation of program supervisors and area managers will be consulted to determine the required content.

The focus will be on assisting the new program supervisors to become fully operational as soon as possible. This will be held in mid to late October, in Toronto.

6. The development of a Divisional policy vis-a-vis the training of funded agencies.
7. The development of materials which can be used by Training Schools in orienting new Supervisors of Juveniles.

For further information, please contact:

Ms Sydney Misener at 965-1487
or
Ms Barbara Jones at 965-0912

NATIONAL DAY CARE SURVEY

Children aged two to six occupy about 87% of the spaces in daycare centres and 50% of the spaces in family day care homes.

This is one of the conclusions offered in Status of Day Care in Canada, 1979 recently released by Health and Welfare Canada.

The report, emanating from the National Day Care Information Centre in Ottawa, is the result of a nation-wide survey undertaken by the Federal Government.

More mothers with pre-school children, says the report, are entering the labour market. Accordingly, the need for daycare services has increased. The increase has also been affected by the shrinkage in size of the nuclear family; less older siblings are available to share in child care.

Increased need brought about an increase in daycare spaces available. The survey notes 14.05% more spaces from 1978 to 1979.

The report sites another area of growth -- that of Family Day Care. Defined as "... a program involving the selection and supervision by a government or authorized private agency of private families who give care to children during the day", during 1979 family day care services increased by over 45%.

Among the other areas the survey examines are integration of children with special needs within normal day care centre, lunch and after school programs and the variety of daycare programs.

Status of Day Care in Canada, 1979 is available free of charge from the National Day Care Information Centre.

The following publications are also available free of charge from the Federal Government.

Pamphlets

Day Care for Children - Revised 1980

Day Care: A Resource for the Contemporary Family

Canadians Ask About Child Day Care

Choosing a Day Care Service:
The Day Care Centre
The Day Care Home

Books

Children With Special Needs in Day Care:

A Guide to Integration

Day Care: A Guide to Reading (Bibliography)

Good Books for a Good Start:

Choosing and Using

Children's Books in Day Care (only available in Canada)

Information Kits

Day Care: Children with Special Needs

Day Care: Facilities and Equipment

Day Care: Infants in Group and Family Settings

Day Care: Nutrition

Day Care: Other Countries

Day Care: Staff Training

Annual Reports

Status of Day Care in Canada 1973

Status of Day Care in Canada 1974

Status of Day Care in Canada 1975

Status of Day Care in Canada 1976

Status of Day Care in Canada 1977

Status of Day Care in Canada 1978

If you would like any of the previously mentioned publications, please contact:

National Day Care Information Centre
Social Services Division
Health and Welfare Canada
612 - Brooke Claxton Building
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 1B5

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES IN REVIEW

"With the introduction of the measures I have announced today, Mr. Speaker, I believe Ontario has a solid basis for an effective and meaningful program of bilingualism. Our policy will be a continuing and progressive one in our endeavour to improve the provision of bilingual public services in Ontario. Our aim is to ensure the maintenance and development of certain services provided to the English speaking community while ensuring that those to the French speaking community more fully meet their needs".

Those words, part of an address to the Legislature by Premier William Davis on May 3, 1971, form the essence of Ontario's French language services policy.

First formulated by past premier John Robarts, and subsequently adopted by the Davis government, the policy has brought about significant improvement in service delivery to Ontario's Francophone residents.

In 1968, Bills 140 and 141 were passed. These established French language classes and schools under the public school boards. A year later, the first French language secondary schools in the public system opened.

The Office of the Government Co-Ordinator of French-language Services was established in 1970.

In 1976, court proceedings were made more accessible to Francophones. A bilingual court was established in Sudbury and the following year bilingual Family Court hearings were conducted in the Sudbury and Ottawa judicial districts.

1977 also saw the appointment of D.W. (Don) Stevenson as full time French language services co-ordinator to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Soon after the Ministry and the Children's Services Division became very active in improving their services to the Francophone population.

In 1978, a team was set up within the Division to deal with the concerns of French-speaking people. The team's responsibility was to identify gaps existing in the provision of services to Francophones and to develop strategies to fill those gaps.

That same year \$700,000 was made available by the Honourable Keith Norton to establish French language services in Eastern Ontario. A Francophone advisory committee was also established in the southeast.

As well, the Ministry established a \$1.3 million bilingual network for services for developmentally handicapped persons and their parents in private and group-homes in the counties of Prescott, Russell, Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry.

In April of 1979, a Francophone unit and French language services to developmentally handicapped residents at Rideau Regional Centre, Smith Falls, were established.

The Northern Region was allocated \$3 million in 1979 for children's needs, Francophone and native children receiving high priority. Three of the projects currently being funded are:

1. Children's Mental Health Centre (Algoma)
... \$187,500
2. South Cochrane Child and Youth Services
... \$326,000
3. Kapuskasing Child and Youth Development Centre
... \$177,090

These programs all include a French component.

If Francophones are to be served in their own language, it is only appropriate that relevant field offices have bilingual staff. That is the case in 15 offices in Northern and Southeastern Ontario as well as the Rideau Regional Centre, the Cecil Facer School in Sudbury and the Kapuskasing Child and Youth Development Centre.

New Francophone initiatives have been funded in the Southeast region; initiatives in Northern Ontario will soon be announced by the Honourable Keith Norton.

OUTDOOR/WILDERNESS HANDBOOK TO BE RELEASED

June 12, 1978. Northern Quebec. 12 Ontario boys (aged 12 - 14) and one of their teachers drown as a result of a canoeing accident on Lake Temiskaming.

August 22, 1978. Northern Quebec. A 15 year old Toronto boy, also on a canoe trip, drowns during a rapids mishap on the Rupert River.

These two tragedies raised public concern over the safety of wilderness programs such as canoeing, and prompted government action.

In the summer of '78, the Ministry established a working group to propose standards and guidelines for outdoor/wilderness programs which would ensure protection for campers through careful supervision of canoeing and similar activities.

It consisted of representatives of Ministries concerned with camping programs and activities -- Health, Education and Culture and Recreation; the Red Cross; the Ontario Camping Association; the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario and the Royal Life Saving Society of Canada. Gordon Cardwell and Rob Dawson, superintendent and program director respectively of Project DARE, worked extensively on the project. They also provided the methodological basis on which the working group proceeded -- previously developed standards for the DARE program.

In June of 1979, the working group released its first report, Proposed Standards and Guidelines for Outdoor/Wilderness Programming, for consultation. The response it received supported the Ministry's decision to proposed standards and guidelines.

In December, four members of the working group met to consider feedback to the report and possible implementation of the proposed standards and guidelines. Two goals for the implementation were established:

a) to raise staff and camper awareness about the importance of safety practices in the outdoors and care for the natural environment; and

b) to provide training for staff who wish to increase their level of competence in outdoors programming.

In February, the working group revised the report to reflect the responses received through consultation. In conjunction with Project DARE staff, the working group changed the standards and guidelines to guidelines only and edited the report to fit the format of a resource handbook.

Gordon Cardwell and Rob Dawson have developed a weekend training session based on the outdoor/wilderness guidelines. The handbook itself is now available.

For more information, contact:

Carol Orphanacos, Prevention Co-ordinator
Children's Services Division
9th Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario.

965-8067.

ADOPTION IN ONTARIO

Ontario's adoption program has long been recognized as a leader in its field. The purpose of this and the following articles is to examine the adoption program as well as several of the resources which have aided it.

Ontario's first adoption laws were passed in 1921. Previously, there had been adoptions but these were informal arrangements and the adopted child had no legal rights in his new family. That changed though with the passing of the laws. Now an adopted child has the same legal rights as if he had been born into the family.

Sixty-six children were adopted in 1921. The number increased every year until 1970, when a decreasing trend began. The decrease was attributed to fewer babies being made available for adoption.

Why? More single parents are raising their own children; many unwed mothers are keeping their babies, the "illegitimate" stigma having faded; the birth rate is lower and better regulated by contraception; the availability of abortions and services to help keep families together have improved.

The shortage of infants had been referred to as a "crisis in adoption". According to Helen Allen though (the author of "Today's Child"):

"I feel it might more properly be called a blessing in disguise. It has made people, both adoption worker and the public, think of older children and their need to belong".

Miss Allen is correct.

While fewer babies have been adopted, the number of older children who are finding homes has increased. In 1979, 1,271 (or over 30%) of the 4,020 children adopted in Ontario that year were aged 7 - 14.

As well as finding homes for older children, there was another problem area in adoption. The children considered hard-to-place -- those of limited ability, large siblings groups, those with physical, emotional or developmental handicaps, those of minority or mixed race or those who had lost toddler appeal.

The problem of finding homes for these children was alleviated very effectively in 1964 with the introduction of "Today's Child."

How do adoptive families and children find each other? There are a number of resources available:

i) The Adoption Resources Exchange Bulletin

When a family is approved for adoption but no suitable child is available in the care of the C.A.S. involved, the C.A.S. may list the family in the Bulletin. It is published by the Children's Services Division and sent to all Children's Aid Societies throughout the province and to the Adoption Desk in Ottawa.

ii) The Children's Adoption Bulletin

Pictures and a short write-up of children available for adoption are published in this bulletin which is sent out to the Children's Aid Societies and other interested parties ten times a year.

The media is also another valuable resource. Today's Child (a newspaper column) and its television counterpart, Family Finder, have found homes for well over 10,000 children in the last 16 years.

The Adoption Desk in Ottawa also requests that children from other jurisdictions be featured in the column with the consent of the child's agency.

Adoption falls under the Child Welfare Act, 1978. When the Act was proclaimed on June 15, 1979, a number of changes resulted which affected the adoption program. These follow:

Individual Licence and Licenced Agency

The amendments to the Child Welfare Act revised the area of private adoption. The Director of Child Welfare may issue a licence to a person to place a child with an applicant for the purpose of adoption. A maximum of two licences per year may be issued to an individual. Before a licence is issued, the individual must file a homestudy on the proposed family as well as the medical and social histories of the surrendering parents. A charitable, non-profit corporation may also apply to the Director of Child Welfare for a licence to establish and operate an adoption agency. No other than a society or a licenced body may place any child for adoption.

Licensing has allowed more control over private placements. It has also prevented poor or unsuitable placements.

Subsidized Adoptions

In some exceptional cases, a subsidy may be provided for parents considering the adoption of a child. These include large family groups who do not wish to be separated and children with physical or emotional handicaps, and minority race children in minority race homes. The amounts vary depending on circumstances of the child or children and the family's finances. The subsidy ensures only the cost of providing for the child. Two examples of subsidized adoptions follow:

A five year old girl is in need of adoptive parents. She has moderate spina bifida, lacks bladder and bowel control and walks with the support of braces. A family has been approved to adopt the girl. They live comfortably within their financial means. However, the demands of their three school age children are sufficient enough to prevent the adoption of a handicapped family member -- unless a subsidy is granted.

Another example of a subsidized adoption is a child in a foster home. He/she has developed positive emotional ties with the foster parents who now wish to adopt the child. However, they are in need of financial assistance.

The Adoption Disclosure Registry

When an adoptee reaches his eighteenth birthday and wishes to find out who his natural parents are, he may register. If his birth parents are registered (this can only be done when the child surrendered is eighteen) and if both parties and the adopting parents agree to the disclosure, then the adoptee and his birth parents may meet. Prior to this, counseling is required for both the adoptee and his birth parents.

Much of the success of the Ministry's adoption program has been due to the efforts of Mrs. Victoria Leach, the adoption co-ordinator.

Mrs. Leach, who has an adopted son, joined the Ministry in 1967 as an executive officer. Six months later she became the adoption co-ordinator.

Victoria Leach has been instrumental in bringing subsidies to adoption, initiating the Adoption Disclosure Registry and developing resources aiding adoption. She also went to Viet Nam, bringing refugees back to Canada, long before their plight received world-wide attention.

When asked what future developments she would like to see for the adoption program, Mrs. Leach replied:

"Two things in particular. I'd like to see a number of our universities develop extension courses exclusively for training adoption workers. It is a specialty to assess a child in his readiness, and to find families and realistically prepare them for their experience. Another thing I'd like to see is the development of an agency that specializes in hard-to-place children".

"I think these are things that we can accomplish."

If you would like further information contact:

Adoptions Unit
Children's Services Division
2nd Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario.

Tel: 965-1718

Today's Child and Family Finder

In its sixteen year newspaper column *Today's Child*, and its companion 11 year old TV program *Family Finder*, has led to the adoption of thousands of children.

Family Finder had its origins in a California talk show.

Today's Child began when one friend did a favour for another

Dr. James Band planted the seeds in 1964 when he spoke to his long time friend, Andrew MacFarlane about adoption. Band, then Deputy Minister of what is now known as COMSOC, was concerned about the number of hard-to-place children who had little or no prospect of being adopted -- those of mixed race, those with emotional, physical or developmental problems or those who no longer had toddler appeal.

Band asked MacFarlane, then managing editor of the now-defunct *Toronto Telegram*, if the paper could undertake an educational campaign to help those children. MacFarlane agreed. Reporter Helen Allen was given the assignment:

"The plan was a daily picture for a three week experimental period. I was to look after it in perhaps an hour a day, snatched from a busy schedule of general reporting."

Twenty-three children appeared in the *Telegram* during that three week period. Amazingly eighteen were adopted. Thus was born "*Today's Child*". The column has not looked back since.

It is now published three times a week in the *Toronto Star*. What was once an hour a day is now a fulltime job for Helen Allen.

While *Today's Child* rapidly became a success, it was not without growing pains.

All the children who appear in the column are in the care of Ontario's fifty Children's Aid Societies. When the column was initiated, though, most societies were reluctant to become involved.

Miss Allen explains:

"The hardest part at the beginning was to persuade the Children's Aid Societies to let us take pictures of the children in their care. Most of them were very unwilling to have anything to do with us, which is understandable. It had never been done before and they thought it might mean that children were being exploited or advertised as if they were for sale. The societies in Toronto, Hamilton and Kenora were eager to try this new idea. Most of the others in the province hesitated."

When the hesitant societies saw that Today's Child really did find homes for children without merchandising them, they became very enthusiastic and co-operated fully.

At first, Today's Child was unique not only to Ontario, but to the world as well; the column was a pioneer, soon widely emulated. The Detroit News for example, started a column entitled "A Child is Waiting" in their Sunday edition. Other papers began similar columns. Only Today's Child has continued on a long-term basis.

From its modest beginnings Today's Child has experienced tremendous growth. It appears in most major Ontario daily newspapers and is also sent to about 150 weeklies. Its potential readership is 6,000,000.

There is no doubt about its impact. Ward Markle, recently retired Executive Director of the Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Society has said that Today's Child "..... changed the climate of adoption in Ontario."

It certainly has. As a result of the column and its television counterpart Family Finder, it is estimated that well over ten to eleven thousand children have been placed in adoptive homes.

When the column resumes after its summer recess, it will no doubt continue bringing children and homes together.

Family Finder

There are a myriad of children's shows on television. But how many of those are actually about children? More specifically, how many of them help children in need of homes?

There is one. Family Finder. For the past eleven years it has helped find adoptive homes for thousands of hard-to-place children. Produced for the Ministry by CFTO-TV, the show is an audio-visual version of the highly successful newspaper column -- 'Today's Child'. Each week four children who need adoptive homes appear on Family Finder. The co-hosts Helen Allen (author of 'Today's Child') and CFTO staff announcer Dave Devall talk to the children about their interests, likes and dislikes etc.. That's it. No pressure or stress. No merchandising, cuteness or syrupy sentiment. No heart-rending appeals.

After being seen on Family Finder, placement of the children often occurs; frequently there are multiple requests to adopt each child.

The concept of 'Family Finder' was originated by Helen Allen. She had been reading the Wall Street Journal. A page-one article about a Los Angeles afternoon talk-show set the idea in motion. The Ben Hunter show, according to the Journal, was commercial laden and featured its host chatting about inconsequential things. In between topics Hunter (doing the commercials himself) sold refrigerators, cars and other consumer goods. On Thursdays he sold children.

Miss Allen explains Hunter's approach:

"It consisted of four people sitting in a row of chairs, each of them with a child clamped tightly in their arms. Hunter would move slowly behind them and stick his face over their shoulders while asking about the children."

After writing to the California Child Welfare Branch, Miss Allen received a tape of the Ben Hunter show. She took it to Queen's Park and the Child Welfare Branch. They saw the potential of television as an adoption resource and became interested in doing a similar but more humanized show.

Miss Allen and Victoria Leach (the Ministry's adoption co-ordinator) approached CFTO-TV and producer Ed Richardson. After screening Hunter's tape, Richardson could not display much enthusiasm:

"It looked like a used car commercial. We swore any show we did was not going to be like that one. It was going to be honest and truthful and not damaging in any respect to the children".

The show that was developed is a half-hour in length with an absence of commercials or closing credits. Nothing is allowed to divert attention from the children. The show is filmed on a set which resembles a playroom and the children are not clamped tightly in anyone's arms. They are allowed to roam freely.

Family Finder will soon begin taping its twelfth season. It is the longest running show CFTO has ever produced. However, according to Richardson (now CFTO's executive producer and vice-president):

"Ours is the only show on the air that is hoping to be cancelled. The day we can say 'I'm sorry but we don't have any more kids who need homes', we know the show has achieved its ultimate success."

UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINOR PROGRAM

Last September the Government of Ontario agreed to help up to 400 young people from Indochina relocate in Ontario. These are children, mostly teenagers, who, for various reasons, are on their own in the refugee camps, unaccompanied by adult family members. They are being placed with Ontario families who accept legal guardianship for them until they reach 18 years of age.

The "Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program" is progressing well, although inevitably its progress is tied to the availability of homes. There is a great need for homes for older teenage boys, age 15 - 17 years, as this group makes up the majority of the children who escape from Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

One hundred youngsters have been or are in the process of being placed with families in Ontario. To date, the majority of these placements are going very well. It seems to be a rewarding experience for both the children and their sponsoring families. Anyone interested in further information about participating in this program should contact their local Employment and Immigration Centre.

1981 IS YEAR FOR DISABLED

Preparations for the International Year of Disabled Persons, 1981, are continuing. Nationally, a Canadian Organizing Committee has been appointed, co-chaired by Mrs. Yvonne Hayward of Montreal and Mr. Percy Wickham of Edmonton. The Canadian Organizing Committee may be reached at P.O. Box 1981, Station F, Ottawa, K1Y 4N9.

A Special Projects Fund of \$1 million has been provided to that Committee. Fifty per cent of the fund will be awarded to projects or activities managed by persons who are disabled and the balance for projects and services providing substantial benefits to those with disabilities.

In Ontario, Mr. William Thorsteinson has been appointed Co-ordinator for the Year in the Office of the Secretary for Social Development. He also serves on the National Committee, and acts as Chairperson for the Interministerial Committee, which is reviewing and co-ordinating government and individual Ministry initiatives for IYDP.

Speaking to the Standing Committee on Social Development in June, the Honourable Margaret Birch stated.

"Generally, our programs and activities for the Year will be designed to create a public awareness and understanding of the abilities, rather than the disabilities of handicapped persons. We will be concerned with educating the public on the needs of preventing developmental and physical disabilities and will attempt to encourage the drive within the disabled community to reach their goals of self-care and independence".

"We will also be concerned with enhancing employment-related services and employment opportunities, both within the government and the private sector; in improving access to both public and private facilities, transportation services and housing; and in providing educational and training opportunities, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities".

Additional information on COMSOC's planning for the Year is available from Bill Smith, Senior Consultant on Handicapped, 2nd Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9, 965-5106.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

The Southeast

Francophone Initiatives Funded

Francophone initiatives in the Southeast for 1980-81 will be funded by the Ministry as part of its commitment to meeting the specific needs of Franco-Ontariens.

The following organizations will receive grants totalling close to \$150,000.

1. The Big Brothers of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will receive \$10,000 to aid the recruitment of Francophone big brothers.

2. The Children's Aid Society of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will receive \$5,000 for translation services and \$15,000 to aid in the recruitment of foster-parents.
3. The Children's Aid Society of Prescott-Russell will receive \$1,000 for translation services, \$11,794 to assess the foster care system in the area and \$6,206 for support services.
4. The Pre-School Prevention Program at Prescott-Russell Nursery will receive \$5,200 for parent education groups and children's activities.
5. The Lowertown Community Resource Centre in Ottawa will receive \$12,000 for community development and the prevention of vandalism among youths.

The council will also receive \$20,000 to help agencies provide services to Francophones.
7. The Parent Preschool Resources Centre of Ottawa-Carleton will receive \$35,000 to establish a Francophone drop-in centre, a workshop and an Outreach program.

For further information on Francophone initiatives in the southeast, please contact:

Pierre Lalonde
Program Supervisor
Children's Services Division
2197 Riverside Drive, Room 705
Ottawa, Ontario. K1H 7X3

(613) 523-7466

New Project Funded

A new project entitled SHE (Stay Healthy Early) has been funded by the Ministry and will begin this fall in Peterborough.

The project's purpose is to aid mothers and expectant mothers considered to be "at risk". In this case, it is the single adolescent who finds herself pregnant and without family or financial support.

The project will follow the progress of the mother and her child from conception to the child's pre-school years. Support services will be available to the mother each step of the way. These include:

Conception Counselling

A physician will be available as well as people from family planning organizations and pregnancy crisis centres.

Gestation Period

Regular medical and obstetrical care will be provided as well as prenatal classes and Childbirth Education Programs. Dieticians will ensure that the young mothers receive nutrition. Breast feeding will also be encouraged during this time.

Labour and Delivery

During this period gentle birth will be advocated as well as immediate skin to skin, face to face contact between mother and child.

Post Natal

Arrangements for rooming-in will be encouraged. Breast feeding will be reinforced. Medical assessment of the infant should also occur.

Various people from the Peterborough medical and social services community will become involved in the project as its stages unfold.

The project's ultimate aim is to reduce the incidence of complications of pregnancy and childbirth and to decrease the rate of disability in this population.

For further information on this project contact:

Dr. Ralph Hull
64 Hunter Street West
Peterborough, Ontario.
K9H 2K4

Guidelines Available

Guidelines for conducting interagency case conferences have been developed by a task force dealing with that topic.

The guidelines were formulated after the completion of a conference -- "Serving Children Together" -- which was co-ordinated by the Kingston Social Planning Council.

Limited numbers of the guidelines are available. If you would like to obtain a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Dr. Vernon Moeller
Frontenac County Board of
Education
220 Portsmouth Avenue
Kingston, Ontario.

The Southwest

A.A.T.D.

The AATD (Admission, Assessment, Treatment, Discharge) Team of Hamilton was first established in 1972 as a co-operative venture by local service providers to allow for greater collaboration and co-ordination in the Children's Mental Health field. The team became responsible for clinical decisions relating to children in need of residential assessment or placement.

Founder members included CAS, CCAS, Chedoke Child and Family Centre, Lynwood Hall, Hamilton-Wentworth Children's Mental Health Clinic and Mount St. Joseph's (now Woodview). In recent years membership has expanded to the three local Boards of Education, Probation and the Group Home Association. The increasing workload necessitated the employment of a full time co-ordinator, funded by the Children's Services Division.

As AATD evolved, a major problem became the lack of consistent representation by agencies and a need for members to be able to commit their respective agencies to whatever action was proposed. Eventually responsibilities were divided and three committees or teams were established.

1. Administrative team, operating as a management committee consisting of Executive Directors and executive staff.
2. Consultation Team, providing a forum for problem solving around hard-to-place children.
3. Clinical Team, perhaps the most productive component, which functions as a screening body for all referrals to Children's Mental Health Centres in the area.

Following decentralization of the Children's Services Division with the Area Office becoming the focal point of all children's services, AATD and the Ministry forged closer links.

Coinciding with an internal review of AATD came a request from the area office for AATD to consider expanding both their services and philosophy, from what was basically assessment for residential treatment beds to a concern for any child with special difficulties and to share, with the Area Office, the responsibility for dealing with service and systems problems. The changes would also create a forum for debate between the Area Office and local service providers. A further suggestion was the expansion of the role of the coordinator with an eventual link-up with the Juvenile Delinquency systems.

After much deliberation, the AATD Administration Team have accepted the challenge and are working with the Area Office in creating what could grow into a unique service for children with special needs and their families.

Central

Symposium to be Held

A symposium entitled "Alternatives to Residential Treatment for Emotionally Disturbed Children" will be held in Toronto, September 24-26, 1980.

Sponsored by the Children's Aid Society of Metro Toronto, the Thistletown Foundation and the Thistletown Regional Centre, the symposium will feature such prominent speakers as Dr. Herbert Quay, Dr. Albert Solnit and Dr. Paul Steinhauer.

"Youth in the Eighties, What Can We Expect?" "Residential Treatment, Last Report or Useful Alternative" and "Why Residential Treatment and Why Not?" will be among the topics of discussion.

In addition, workshops will be held concurrently.

The symposium will take place at the Sheraton Centre:

For further information, please contact:

The Public Relations Department
Thistletown Regional Centre for
Children and Adolescents
51 Panorama Court
Rexdale, Ontario.
M9V 4L8

(416) 741-1210

The North

Mental Health Centre Established in North

The Child and Youth Service of Temiskaming has been established by the Ministry and is expected to be operational by late fall. A Children's Mental Health Centre, it will offer its services in both English and French and will be utilized by families in the District of Temiskaming (which includes Kirkland Lake, Englehart, Haileybury, Cobalt and New Liskeard). It will be a community based secondary service providing the expertise and support of a professional team to primary service delivery workers in the District.

The service will provide bilingual community-based assessments consultation follow-up services and in-service development for existing agencies.

The team will help develop treatment plans and intervention strategies to be carried out by front-line workers in the primary service agencies such as schools, Children's Aid Societies, Probation and Aftercare, Group Homes and Public Health Units.

The Centre will give a minimum of direct service, concentrating on helping those who deal with the child on a regular basis to add a treatment component to their contacts.

For further information write or call:

Paul Conway
Program Supervisor
Children's Services Division
P.O. Box 1720
South Porcupine, Ontario.
PON 1H0
(705) 235-3363

New Changes

There have been some changes to the address and telephone numbers of two Division offices.

Please update your list with the following information:

Ottawa Operations Office
2197 Riverside Drive
Room 705
Ottawa, Ontario

(613) 523-7466

Waterloo Operations Office
Waterloo Square
75 King Street South
5th Floor
Waterloo, Ontario.

(519) 886-4700

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graph TD
    A["A.D.M.  
Children's  
Services"] --- B["Executive  
Director  
Operations"]
    A --- C["Executive  
Coordinator  
Program Policy"]
    B --- D["Director  
Funding and  
Program  
Evaluation"]
    B --- E["Special  
Projects  
Manager"]
    B --- F["Admin.  
Officer"]
    C --- G["Local  
Children's  
Services  
Committees"]
    C --- H["Omnibus  
Legislation"]
    C --- I["Unit  
Manager"]
    C --- J["Executive  
Assistant"]
    C --- K["Admin.  
Assistant"]
    I --- L["Family  
Support"]
    I --- M["Prevention  
Policy  
Advisor"]
    I --- N["Spectrum  
of  
Services"]
    D --- O["Manager  
Service  
Plans"]
    D --- P["Manager  
Monitoring  
Review  
Evaluation"]
    D --- Q["Manager  
Funding"]
    D --- R["Manager  
Information  
Systems"]
    E --- S["Crown  
Ward  
Review"]
    F --- T["Homes  
for  
Special  
Care"]
    F --- U["Executive  
Assistant"]
    F --- V["Manager  
Information  
Support"]
    F --- W["Director  
Operational  
Support  
Branch"]
    W --- X["Mgr.  
Program &  
Financial  
Analysis"]
    W --- Y["Inspector  
Residential  
Facilities"]
    W --- Z["Child  
Abuse  
Coordinator"]
    W --- AA["Adoption  
Coordinator"]
    W --- AB["MR  
Coordinator"]
    W --- AC["Manager  
Standards  
and  
Research"]
    Z --- AD["Residential  
Standards"]
    Z --- AE["Foster  
Care  
Standards"]
    Z --- AF["Day  
Nursery  
Standards"]
    Z --- AG["Research"]
    AC --- AD
    AC --- AE
    AC --- AF
    AC --- AG
    
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- Planning Coordinators
- Community Alternatives
- Assessment Coordinator
- Foster Care
- Prevention
- Secure Services
- Garber Implementation Task Force
- Manuals
- Native Programs
- Administrative Systems
- Planning

CA26N
SM160
-C37



Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

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TRI-MINISTRY PROJECT FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CLIENTS WELL ON THE WAY TO IMPLEMENTATION

A Tri-Ministry project launched last Spring to provide developmental training for mentally retarded clients in Homes for Special Care has accomplished many of the priorities set for the first year of implementation.

Over 600 assessments in some 11 nursing homes across the province have been completed, including 400 assessments of children and young adults under the age of 21.

The assessment process includes a thorough examination by both a doctor and a registered nurse, a functional review of a client's basic life skills, the collection of a detailed social and family history on each client and where applicable, an educational assessment.

"Behind the scenes", several groups have been established to ensure a co-operative and integrative approach to the assessment and program development process.

A Project Management Unit, which includes a Project Co-ordinator, four Project Officers and a Supervisor of Assessments is developing information linkages and working relationships between the Ministries involved and interested organizations in the field.

As the co-ordinator of the project, Anne Malton, explains, the Project Officers maintain contact with home operators while working in the field to co-ordinate the service planning function and facilitate the scheduling of assessments.

She adds that her role is to supervise the ongoing implementation of the project.

"I ensure that there are processes in place to resolve policy issues as they arise," she said, "I troubleshoot - and provide a visible point of referral for public relations."

An Interministerial Steering Committee also oversees the Project to ensure that any procedures developed are in concordance with the policies of the three co-sponsoring Ministries.

The committee is chaired by COMSOC Associate Deputy Minister, George Thomson and includes representation from each of the other Ministries involved - Health and Education. The group is currently considering the issues of admission and screening, guardianship and transfer of responsibility.

An Admissions and Screening Task Force has been formed to review current admission procedures in Homes for Special Care and Nursing Homes and to recommend to the Interministerial Committee possible changes to the screening mechanisms. This group is expected to make its recommendations shortly.

In the field, a Provincial Liaison Group, representing the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, the Ontario Nursing Homes Association, and the Operators of Residential Homes, provides a forum to balance the many interests and to advise the Steering Committee of the issues facing all parties.

Some 10 Local Advisory Committees have so far been established throughout the province, as sub-committees of the Working Groups on Mental Retardation. In this way, programs for this group of clients will be integrated into the overall MR planning network.

Membership of these committees includes a Project Officer, a representative of the Working Group on Mental Retardation, a nursing home inspector and operator, a Homes for Special Care worker and a representative of the Ministry of Education.

Program proposals from service deliverers will be reviewed and recommendations for funding made to the Project Co-ordinator through the Local Advisory committees, the Working Group on Mental Retardation and COMSOC area offices.

Some proposals already implemented

Ms Malton notes that new programs have already been started in some of the homes while other proposals are under consideration and many should be instituted in the next few months.

These programs are primarily based on individual development plans determined from the assessments and aggregated to focus on the needs of a group of clients in each home.

She says that in general clients of the residential or group home type of facility are fairly high functioning and would benefit from life skills training, pre-vocational and vocational programs and recreational activities.

She explains, however, that many mentally retarded residents of extended care nursing homes are severely physically impaired and may require primarily sensory and motor stimulation and specialized seating.

With those clients who are trainable, Ms Malton says it is essential that they be given the chance to choose for themselves whether to participate in the programs.

"We have to ensure that where possible the client understands what choices he can and should make," she said.

She adds that it is most important to maintain the support of operators and service deliverers in the field.

"So far we are encouraged by the response. We are seeing a great deal of enthusiasm tempered of course by some realism," she said, "The realism is directed towards the implementation stage because people in the field have seen promises made but not fulfilled."

"But I'm very confident," she added, "We have identified a client group - people to relate to, a job to do, and the resources with which to do it."

MINISTRY RELEASES COMPLETED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR CHILD ABUSE WORKERS

Two documents which provide a consistent set of case management and reporting procedures for child abuse workers have just recently been released in finished format by the Children's and Adults' Policy and Program Development Division.

The completed standards and guidelines are the result of a two-year consultation process between COMSOC and Children's Aid Societies across the province.

The manual, "Standards and Guidelines for the Management of Child Abuse Cases" has been modified for the third time in accordance with various CAS recommendations and now outlines expected rather than proposed case handling procedures.

The second document, "Guidelines for Reporting to the Child Abuse Register" has been prepared as a companion volume to the case management manual and describes the type of child abuse situations that are reportable and the procedures for reporting to the Registrar.

The Co-ordinator of the Garber Task Force Implementation Unit, Margaret Farina, explains that the manuals are a result of the 1978 Garber Task Force report on child abuse which noted inconsistencies among CAS's across the province in case handling practice.

After the release of the Garber report, Mrs. Farina and Ross Dawson, then the Assistant Director of the Algoma Children's Aid Society, worked together to produce a set of preliminary standards and guidelines in the form of a consultation paper.

Mrs. Farina notes that following release of this document, consultation groups were set up all over the province to discuss changes that would make the Standards more relevant to all CAS workers.

"A Ministry consultant travelled throughout the province for three months and in addition letters and written briefs were received from Children's Aid Societies, child abuse teams and local groups," she said.

New document much more flexible

The result has been a revised document in terms of the number and stringency of the standards.

"The initial document was more rigid," Mrs. Farina explained, "now there are more options and what we've tried to do is make sure that the standards are practical in all parts of the province."

She notes that the intent of the completed series of standards and guidelines is to provide support to child abuse workers often faced with making some very difficult decisions and of course, to ensure as far as possible that children at risk are protected.

"Having a set of required procedures will be helpful for the workers," she said, "it should give a feeling of stability to know what is expected."

She adds that the standards will also protect the child abuse worker should any problems occur in a particular case.

"We are trying to support CAS workers so that when the procedures are followed and a case goes badly, it will be the procedures that are judged, not the individual," she said.

Mrs. Farina emphasizes however that the same methods cannot necessarily be applied in all circumstances - that case decisions should be made as close to the situation as possible.

"Discretion has to be allowed for professional judgement," she said, "decisions have to be made on an individual case basis as to whether or not a child is actually at risk."

Although consideration was given to incorporating the Standards into regulations under the Child Welfare Act, Mrs. Farina says that the Ministry has decided to avoid overregulation and will rely on its basic supervisory relationship with the CAS's.

She stresses that the "Standards and Guidelines" manual is a finished but not a final document.

"It will probably be reviewed in another year or so to make sure it is workable and to clarify any problems that may exist," she said.

Training programs assist service deliverers

In the meantime the Ministry has undertaken an extensive series of training programs for child protection workers, designed to provide some level of consistency in case management and service delivery.

Programs have been developed for essentially all CAS personnel who deal with child abuse - front-line protection workers, supervisors, court workers, executive and senior service administrators and even foster parents caring for abused children.

Sessions have been held in virtually all areas of the province. For the almost 1200 front-line protection workers who have participated so far, this has meant a total of some 50 sessions in each program.

The protection staff training program consists of two four-day sessions. The first phase deals with investigation and assessment and draws on the "Standards and Guidelines" as one of the supporting documents to explain appropriate case management procedures. Phase two details the case planning and treatment process.

Training programs focusing on a methodology of supervision for CAS supervisory personnel have been held in 10 locations throughout the province. So far over 240 CAS supervisors have attended these 5-day sessions.

An executive overview of the supervisor's training program was also offered to some 70 CAS senior administrators in a two and one-half day program held last winter in eight localities across Ontario.

CAS court workers had the opportunity to participate in a special two-day session held in Toronto last March.

A total of 60 CAS staff members from across the province have also been involved in five-day training sessions for developing and delivering foster parent training programs in local Societies.

Thirty-six of the 50 Societies in Ontario now have foster parent trainers on their staffs and so far these people have held over 80 foster parent training programs.

Mrs. Farina notes that most of the trainers for the professional staff programs are also CAS personnel. Societies throughout Ontario were initially approached by COMSOC and asked to nominate experienced senior staff members interested in the "challenges of training."

Fourteen trainers have been involved in the supervisor programs while a total of 20 have conducted the sessions for front-line protection workers.

Once recruited and trained themselves in the curriculum and suggested techniques for its presentation, two instructors were assigned to lead each training session.

As Mrs. Farina commented, "Although all of these senior people had to do a fair amount of travelling from session to session while coping with the demands of their jobs, they experienced a tremendous amount of growth as trainers - they felt they learned much about the priorities of Societies in different areas of the province."

Training sessions rated a success

She notes that so far the training sessions have been very well received.

"There was some scepticism initially," she said, "but when evaluated afterwards, the front-line sessions received a rating of 93% while 90% of the participants in the supervisor groups rated them a success."

She adds that the sessions have been so well received that the basic programs are now being consolidated.

"Basic training is scheduled for this spring and fall, while an extension program offering specialized education in selected topics such as the treatment of the family, adolescents, and sexual abuse, is planned for next winter," she said.

ON-RESERVE CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM NOW EXPANDED THROUGHOUT ONTARIO

A program designed to provide on-reserve preventive care and child welfare services to native families has recently been expanded to native communities throughout the province.

A total of \$500,000 has been committed to this second phase of the project. The funds will be divided between the Northern (\$360,000), the Southwestern (\$70,000) and Southeastern regions (\$65,000) based on a Ministry assessment of the need in each area for this new type of service. Additional funds will be available in future years.

The Native Child Welfare program was first launched as a series of pilot projects in 1979 to help reduce the significantly higher proportion of native children being removed from reserves for care and treatment.

Grants of between \$28,000 and \$80,000 were allocated to a total of eight reserves in the areas of Kenora, Kapuskasing and Rainy River to develop a range of services specific to each native community.

As the co-ordinator of the project, Nancy Green, explains, a key feature of the program is native involvement in the planning, design and delivery of the services.

"Criteria as to the type of services that will be provided are developed jointly by the Indian Bands and the Children's Aid Societies," she said, "the two groups also work together to hire native workers who can deliver the services."

These workers live directly on the reserve and their responsibilities include friendly visiting with families and co-ordinating existing resources in the community.

Ms Green emphasizes that the Native Child Welfare program is attempting to satisfy a major service delivery principle of the Ministry - cultural appropriateness.

"With the higher proportions of native children being removed from their communities and placed in non-native foster homes, band councils became concerned that the children would lose their sense of identity," she said.

But now when problems occur, children will be able to discuss them with a native worker in their own language and community setting."

She says that an evaluation of the Rainy River pilot programs has in fact indicated a reduction in non-native off-reserve care and an increase in on-reserve care particularly in the placement of foster children.

She adds that proposals are now being developed to implement these services in all regions of the province and approval for funding should be given to specific projects early in the next fiscal year.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCES NEW POLICY ON SECURE SERVICES

A policy paper recently released by the Ministry proposes the development of a province-wide secure services network for children and adolescents using existing and planned secure facilities.

A primary impetus for the proposed network is to provide a consistent set of policies and procedures to the provision of secure services in this province.

The paper also outlines principles to ensure that the "well being" of the child is always considered and recommends that the number of placements in locked settings be limited.

These proposals are introduced by means of a historical overview which describes public attitudes towards the use of "confinement" and traditional approaches to the provision of secure services both in the United States and in Canada.

Some gaps evident in current secure programs

Current secure services in the province range from short-term units in Observation and Detention homes to longer-term programs offered by training schools and some adult psychiatric units.

The term "secure" means that the external doors to these facilities are always locked while all internal doors can be locked whenever necessary.

Observation and Detention Homes

A four-level system of observation and detention is currently being established in Ontario. These levels range from home supervision and open detention in residential facilities to semi-secure and secure detention.

Secure observation and detention homes are located in Hamilton, London, Oakville, Ottawa and Toronto and are used to detain juveniles who are in the midst of court proceedings or are awaiting assessment before being transferred to the care of another person or facility.

Training Schools

There is only one training school in Ontario - Syl Apps Youth Centre in Oakville - which is designed to provide completely secure accommodation. Two other schools - Sprucedale in Simcoe and Brookside in Cobourg - are currently being renovated to increase security.

Young offenders between the ages of 12 and 16 can be placed in these institutions if they have been found "delinquent" under the federal Juvenile Delinquents Act and may remain in the institutions up to age 18.

Psychiatric Treatment

It is recognized that there are only a limited number of facilities currently available to treat children with a diagnosed mental disorder who are considered dangerous to themselves or to others.

Secure Services Network Proposed to Provide Policy Framework

It is the absence of an overall policy for the three types of facilities now offering secure programs that has encouraged the development of a comprehensive framework for the provision and use of secure services in this province.

In this new system, existing and proposed secure service facilities will be organized around three specific program areas - secure detention, secure care and secure treatment.

The policy paper also discusses the use of secure isolation rooms in such facilities to control children demonstrating sudden violent or threatening behaviours.

A basic premise of the proposed network is to develop a series of referral relationships or pathways that will connect the different programs.

Well-being of the child should be considered

The policy paper emphasizes that no matter where a juvenile is referred, the child's rights and best interests must always be protected.

A series of principles have, therefore, been developed to guide the use of these secure services and to indicate criteria for admission into secure settings.

The paper explains that certain conditions should be satisfied before placing any child in a secure setting - that the child has committed a serious act and has a recent history of committing similar acts.

This process involves selecting the least restrictive alternative when considering services for a juvenile, using formal court processes with full legal representation for the child in decisions regarding placement and justifying that the potential harm of placing a child in a secure setting is far outweighed by the risk to society of not choosing secure confinement.

Secure Detention

In terms of the actual secure settings, detention units will remain basically the same as the existing O & D format, continuing to contain juveniles who are considered dangerous and have been arrested for a serious delinquent offence.

However, it is possible that these facilities will be extended to include residential units for specialized assessment of certain high risk children before the court.

Secure Care

Secure care units will be used to confine juveniles between the ages of 12 and 16 who have been convicted of a serious offence and present a threat to others. The ultimate decision on whether to place a juvenile in secure care and the duration of stay, up to a maximum of two years, will rest with the courts.

The total number of training school beds will not change; however, it is expected that the number of secure placements will increase per facility.

Within these facilities it is proposed that there be smaller units to accommodate between eight and twelve juveniles. Secure care programs will be developed autonomously in the units and will be tailored to the specific needs of the juveniles in care at any given time.

Secure Treatment Needs Most Development

In the secure service area currently requiring the most development, secure treatment, the policy paper recommends that longer-term psychiatric treatment and short-term emergency care be established for juveniles assessed to have mental or emotional disorders.

The short-term units will eventually offer support to the entire secure services system by providing clinical assessments and accommodation for children in crisis.

Longer term treatment units should be small and accommodate between eight and ten children. It is proposed that each unit will be granted a fair amount of autonomy in terms of developing treatment programs.

All secure treatment units will be located close to or within established mental health facilities in the four service regions of the province.

In order to be admitted into long-term secure treatment, a child should be between 12 and 16 years of age and have caused serious harm or the risk of such harm to himself or others within the 45 days preceding application for admission as well as similar acts within the previous 12 months.

It must also be determined that the child requires treatment to prevent recurrences of the serious behaviour and this treatment should be available at the unit to which he is admitted. Approval for admission is to be received from the Director of the treatment facility before an application can be made to the family court.

Based on these admission criteria, the procedures for placing a child in long-term secure treatment require that the parent or guardian submit an application for admission to family court, that the applicant obtain a clinical assessment of the child and that a hearing be held (allowing the child full legal representation) to assess the feasibility of placement.

If the court decides in favour of admission, the initial confinement period will not exceed 90 days. An extension is possible after a hearing is held to review the child's progress.

Secure Treatment Units Now Being Established

To assist the implementation of proposals in the secure treatment area, steering committees have been formed in three regions of the province.

The immediate priority of these groups is the establishment of eight to ten bed units for long-term secure treatment at Thistletown Regional Centre in Toronto, Children's Psychiatric Research Institute in London and in Eastern Ontario as well as a short-term secure clinical crisis unit in Toronto.

It is expected that all four units will be operational sometime this year. This will mean that the secure services network will be nearly complete in the Central, Eastern and Western Regions of the province.

As for the North, studies are underway to assess the gaps in both the secure care and secure treatment systems to develop appropriate programs.

Procedures will be Incorporated in New Legislation

Legislation is now being developed in the form of a "Children's Secure Services Act" to implement the new procedures.

It is expected that this Act will be introduced in the fall session of the legislature.

In the meantime interested individuals and organizations are invited to comment on the policy paper particularly in regard to the admission criteria and the number of beds that will be available in the proposed secure services network.

Additional copies of the discussion paper are available from:

Program Information Branch
Ministry of Community & Social Services
Hepburn Block, 4th Floor
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
(416) 965-3111

******* A LOOK AT CENTRAL REGION *******

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM TEACHES "HARD TO MANAGE" STUDENTS HOW TO PASS GRADE NINE

At Lakeview Secondary School in Toronto discouraged students are learning how to handle the social demands of the school setting and acquiring skills that they can carry into their daily lives.

The support program is called "Life Skills" and its basic intention is to encourage students to make the commitment to complete Grade Nine.

Instructors Marion Levi of the Toronto Board of Education and Jamie Emerson, a Ministry Probation and Aftercare Officer, feel that the program has been successful in reducing discipline problems and increasing attendance among its participants.

"For instance we have monitored informal control groups not involved in the classes and have found that most of them have quit school by February or March", they said.

As far as discipline problems are concerned, most of the students are in the office at least three times per day at the beginning of the program - by the end this has been reduced to no more than once per week."

"Life Skills" was first initiated in 1975 as a joint project of Probation and Aftercare Services and the Toronto Board of Education to create an outlet for some of the more difficult-to-manage Lakeview students.

Lakeview School was determined an ideal setting because of its location in a neighbourhood which has a large percentage of CAS, Ministry and privately operated group homes and traditionally the highest juvenile probation intake in the city.

In addition Lakeview is a Level Three institution. This means that all students at the school have not passed Grade Eight.

As Mr. Emerson explains, "The students who end up at Lakeview have started to do poorly socially, academically and athletically."

Referrals to the Program Come from a Variety of Sources

Generally students are referred to the "Life Skills" program from a variety of agencies and individuals including CAS Group homes, probation and training officers, judges, lawyers, educational consultants and the school itself. Some students have even started to refer themselves.

Mr. Emerson notes that most referrals have been involved in such crimes as break and entry, car theft, possession of marijuana, assault as well as a considerable amount of truancy.

"In some cases the students have been physically abused and deprived," Ms Levi added, "their families don't always give them the attention they need."

Since last fall the program has received a total of 77 referrals, 23 of which are currently involved in the program. This year there are two classes of predominantly male students.

The classes meet daily for forty-five minutes and are considered part of the options Lakeview students select in addition to their regular programming. Students who complete the course are granted a credit.

Mr. Emerson says that the admission process includes an interview with potential students to explain the features of the program and to emphasize that if they wish to join the class, they should be ready to make the commitment to complete Grade Nine.

"Much of it is a voluntary thing," he said, "These students want to be in school and want an education but something about school is turning them off."

Classes Encourage Students to Experiment with New Behaviours

Once in the program, students are encouraged to try out new behaviours to develop alternative ways of perceiving and handling their problems.

This is accomplished through group discussion, role playing, role modelling, behaviour rehearsal, desensitization and through the use of video and audio tape.

The curriculum includes units on communication skills, problem solving, values, the law, sexuality and drugs.

As they tackle current problems together, students begin to participate in learning situations that directly relate to their lives and over time it is hoped that students apply these skills to varying situations with increasing confidence.

Ms Levi stressed that it takes some time for the students to actually open up and support one another.

"At the beginning they are co-operative but cautious," she said, "There is a fair amount of testing and some rejection of the group. But eventually they learn to trust the leaders and other group members."

Outside of the class, the Life Skills instructors provide additional support in the form of individual counselling or tutoring and by monitoring attendance and working with families and community agencies.

"We maintain close contact with Probation Officers and group homes in order to respond to crises and to provide a consistent counselling program", they said.

Ms Levi emphasizes that this congruity is a special feature of the program.

"We have two Ministries working hand in hand with problem students right here in the school," she said, "this gives the students structure and it means the response time is very quick - almost immediate."

***** A FOCUS ON NORTHERN REGION *****

FUNDS TO NINE NORTHERN AGENCIES RESULT IN INCREASED SERVICES TO FRANCOPHONE FAMILIES

Francophone families in Northern Ontario now have the opportunity to receive a more comprehensive range of mental health and preventive care services as a result of a recent allocation of \$400,000 to nine northern agencies.

This amount represents the last installment of a two-phase funding allotment committed by COMSOC in 1978/79 to try to reduce gaps in terms of the availability and coordination of services to francophone families with special needs.

The initial allocation, involving a total of \$700,000, went to 10 social agencies in Eastern Ontario in 1978/79.

The nine northern agencies, located in the major francophone catchment areas of Nipissing, Nipigon, Timiskaming, Sudbury, Cochrane and Thunder Bay, were awarded grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$125,000.

These grants were ratified by cabinet last July after a lengthy review process and were announced by the Minister last fall.

As the Regional Francophone Coordinator for the North, Rejean Nadeau, explains, 45% of the funds are ongoing allocations to the mental health stream while the remaining portion has been earmarked for preventive care services for an initial period of three years.

"This second group of programs are 3-year demonstration projects," he said, "but if when we evaluate these programs we feel that they were effective as specific modes of intervention, then we may have a justification for additional or permanent funding."

Mr. Nadeau emphasizes that almost 90% of Francophones living in the North will have access to the initiatives currently being implemented and he notes that an additional 20 bilingual professionals are being hired to staff the programs.

Three Programs in Mental Health Stream Alloted Funds

In the mental health stream, an ongoing grant of \$125,000 has been allocated to the Sudbury-Algoma Hospital to develop a non-residential francophone assessment unit.

The hospital is a multi-purpose mental health facility which offers residential and non-residential treatment to children and adolescents. The new unit is being established to receive referrals from francophone clients and agencies throughout northern Ontario needing these specialized services.

Mr. Nadeau notes that the hospital is now in the process of hiring an executive director for the unit and will be hiring other staff members shortly.

A further \$65,000 has been allotted to the District of Nipissing as part of an overall plan to establish a full range of mental health services in that area.

As Mr. Nadeau explains, the francophone aspect is only one component of this project.

"The \$65,000 is just to ensure that there will be a unique francophone capability in the proposed Nipissing Children's Mental Health Services program," he said.

He adds that an Executive Director is about to be hired and he expects that the new service will be implemented sometime in the next fiscal year.

The final mental health allocation is a grant of \$25,000 to the Centre de Developpement de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse in Kapuskasing.

The funds are being used to hire a full-time bilingual psychologist who will be responsible for providing clinical services to clients in the North Cochrane area. The Centre is now in the process of recruiting potential candidates.

A Variety of Preventive Care Programs Receive Grants

A major portion of the funding in the area of preventive care was allocated to assist the further development of family counselling programs.

Le Service Familial, a program that has offered assistance to francophone families in the Sudbury region, has received a grant of \$44,000 to expand operations.

Mr. Nadeau notes that additional staff were hired early in the year and the program is now offering a broader range of services.

A grant of \$49,670 was also awarded to the Centre de Counselling Familial, a project sponsored by the Catholic diocese of Timmins. The additional funds will enable the diocese to provide more comprehensive counselling support to francophone and anglophone families in the South Cochrane area.

The Centre has used the grant to hire two full-time counsellors and to add some part-time help to their assessment services.

\$35,000 was provided to Confederation College in Thunder Bay to develop and administer a counselling service for francophone families in the community of Longlac.

The purpose of the program is to provide support to families with all types of problems, keeping in mind the best interests of the child.

Operations have been underway since January with the hiring of a counsellor to co-ordinate the service.

Other preventive care programs awarded funding include Telecare in Timmins.

This "hot-line" crisis intervention service, which already offers assistance in English, has been allocated a grant of \$3,000 for the 1980-81 fiscal year to expand its services to the francophone population in the district of Cochrane.

Mr. Nadeau explains that Telecare is using the money to train volunteers who can respond to crisis calls in French.

The Assomption Parish in Kirkland Lake has received a grant of \$34,750 to establish a streetworker program - Formation et Recrutement des Adolescents par la Prevention.

This program will eventually be hiring two streetworkers to provide assistance and support to bilingual and unilingual teenagers in the community who may be involved in alcohol and drug abuse situations or even juvenile delinquency.

A final grant of \$25,000 has been allocated to the Association Canadienne Francaise de l'Ontario in Kirkland Lake to establish a joujoutheque or toy library.

Mr. Nadeau explains that once fully implemented, the toy library will be a multi-purpose activity centre that can be used by both young children and their parents.

He adds that Joujoutheque is really a prevention program.

"The toys are a means of achieving an end," he said, "by stimulating the interest of these children, the project is trying to provide for more healthy development and is training the young children to be responsible."

Comsoc Employees Now Working to Improve their French

Now that most of these programs have been implemented, Mr. Nadeau says that he is working to increase the francophone capability of northern service units staffed by civil servants.

This has involved preparing an inventory of the existing abilities of Children's Services Division employees and developing training programs to broaden and improve their use of spoken and written French.

The first such program will involve a three-day seminar for bilingual secretaries and receptionists and is expected to be launched shortly.

Future programs will also be developed for bilingual professionals.

Mr. Nadeau stresses that the improvement of French-language services within social and community agencies is based on a similar commitment.

"The Ministry hopes that eventually funds will simply be integrated into already existing programs to meet the needs of francophones," he said, "in this regard we are encouraging local agencies and associations funded by COMSOC to recognize the need to provide francophone services as part of their total responsibilities."

PREVENTIVE PROGRAM IN HEARST INTERACTS WITH YOUTH ON THEIR OWN TURF

A pilot program recently initiated in Hearst has established contact with youth on their own "turf" as a way of preventing potential mental health problems.

Workers involved in the "La Source" project interact with the Hearst youth on the streets, in the pool hall and in the Hearst Recreation centre to provide informal counselling as well as planned group activity.

The main impetus behind "La Source" was Diane Boucher, a CAS Supervisor in the Hearst area.

The actual program proposal was developed last spring by an ad hoc advisory committee in Hearst which has been set up to examine the issue of community needs and to co-ordinate services to deal with these needs. The committee included representation from the local CAS, Health Unit and school board.

The project, which was launched last August, is being funded on a three-year basis by COMSOC and is under the administration of the Kapuskasing Children's Mental Health Centre.

As COMSOC Program Supervisor for the Timmins area, David Sewell, explains, "La Source had a budget of about \$37,500 last year which is to increase to about \$41,000 this year. The project will, of course, be evaluated at the end of three years and it is possible that funding will be extended."

"Actually the whole administrative process has been kind of interesting," he added, "the project is funded by COMSOC through the Kap CMHC but was first proposed by a CAS worker."

La Source Workers Provide Friendship and Support

Mr. Sewell notes that "La Source" workers, Kathryn Fournier and Daniel Gingras, act as both community organizers and "big brother" contacts for primarily the 15 and 16-year old residents of Hearst.

He explains that besides instigating informal discussions and group sessions to deal with "kid-identified" problems, the workers try to organize activities that will be fun and interesting for this age group.

This includes such recreational activities as badminton, basketball, sleigh rides, dances and drama sessions.

"While they are probably getting and giving instruction in pool and various kinds of card games, at the same time the workers are trying to help the youth do other constructive things," Mr. Sewell said, "and out of that grows friendships which can end up in counselling relationships for kids needing that type of assistance."

Both Mr. Gingras and Ms Fournier have undergone group dynamic and psychological training at the Kapuskasing CMHC to help them identify certain behaviour problems that indicate a youth needs help.

But as Mr. Sewell notes the most important prerequisite is being able and willing to respond whenever needed.

"If a youth in crisis bangs on their door in the middle of the night, they are expected to handle the problem. If they let the person down, then the service might be considered ineffective, he said.

If a youth comes to them with a need, it is up to them to assess that need and do something about it either through informal counselling or if the problem is serious, by referring them to the appropriate service person."

Hearst Youth Gradually Adapting to the Program

Mr. Sewell says that when "La Source" was first introduced, the reaction from the Hearst youth varied but that now most people feel quite comfortable with the idea.

"Initially some of them saw the program as infiltration and changed their hangout to another place, while some just took a wait and see attitude. Others were more welcoming and reacted quite positively to the fact that these workers wanted to help them, he said.

Now some of the youth who were suspicious at first have wandered back to the pool hall and the community centre and seem to be accepting the program more as they realize that the others take the workers for granted and feel quite good about the program."

Mr. Sewell adds that the most interesting reaction came from the Hearst Town Council.

"There were some concerns about the effect of the program on the community as a whole," he said, "so the Director of the CMHC had to visit the Town Council to reassure the members that "La Source" was a worthwhile undertaking."

KAPUSKASING PROGRAM PROVIDES SHORT-TERM RELIEF TO FAMILIES WITH MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

Help is being extended to families with developmentally handicapped children in a project launched last month in Kapuskasing.

Called "Extend-a-Family", this volunteer program is designed to provide short-term relief to parents without removing the handicapped child from the community environment.

As Program Supervisor for the Timmins area, David Sewell, explains, the program offers support to families who would normally have to institutionalize their handicapped child if these resources were not available or to parents who might otherwise have to place their child in an institution outside of the community.

"The Extend-a-Family program tries to encourage parents who might be considering the option of institutionalization to continue working with the child, keeping in mind that services are available should they decide at some point that they can't cope," he said.

Mr. Sewell notes that the volunteers involved in the project might take over a family for a few hours or take care of a handicapped child for a few days.

"Sometimes the volunteer goes in and simply relieves the parents while they do a couple of hours shopping," he said, "In other cases it could be a type of parental relief where the child is taken for a few days or a weekend or a week if the parents are finding it quite difficult to cope."

"Extend-a-Family" is being administered by an advisory committee that reports to the Kapuskasing and District Association for the Mentally Retarded. This year the project received a grant of \$6,000 from COMSOC to establish operations and to hire a part-time co-ordinator.

Mr. Sewell says that a total of 21 families in the Kapuskasing area have been identified as requiring the service.

He notes that so far the reaction from the community has been quite enthusiastic.

"Trying to cope with a handicapped child can be very difficult and very exhausting for parents especially without any back-up support," he said, "so I think that there was a big demand for the program and a lot of pressure to get it started. For that reason, it has quite heavy community support."

It is interesting to note that similar "host-family" services are now being offered in some 28 communities throughout Ontario including such areas as Espanola, Hamilton, Peterborough, Windsor and Cornwall.

NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

MR. HARRY ZWERVER recently took up responsibilities as the new Executive Director of Policy Management within the Children's and Adults' Policy and Program Development Division.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Zwerver held the position of Associate Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. He also spent three years as the Director of Planning and Development for the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto.

Over the past several years Mr. Zwerver has maintained an active involvement in the development of Children's policy initiatives as a member of various Ministry consultation and working committees. As the head of a local Red Cross organization, he has also undertaken work in the area of Home Support Services.

Mr. Zwerver received his undergraduate training in behavioural sciences from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He spent an additional year at the University of Toronto in the School of Social Work and is also currently completing a Masters degree in Social Welfare Policy at McMaster University.

In addition to his academic and professional qualifications, Mr. Zwerver has been an active member of several national and provincial voluntary and professional organizations. In this capacity he has been involved in the development of day care programs, residential and alternative treatment programs for adolescents and resources for abused women.

DR. GILLIAN DOHERTY has been appointed Director of Policy Services, a newly created Branch within the Children's and Adults' Policy and Program Development Division.

This branch has been developed to respond to issues arising from service delivery concerns, to assess policy proposals from other Ministries and the federal government, to liaise with interest groups and associations and to provide consultation to the Minister or to other Ministry staff.

Dr. Doherty will also continue to act as Executive Co-ordinator, Children's Policy Development, until an incumbent is recruited. She was previously Regional Director of Children's Services in Southwestern Region.

WE GOOFED!

In the article, "French Language Services in Review", (in our October, 1980, issue) we mentioned that D.W. (Don) Stevenson had been appointed as the French Language Services Co-ordinator for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Mr. Stevenson is French Language Services Co-ordinator for the provincial government. Abbie Allan is the Ministry's French Language Services Co-ordinator and her unit is alive and functioning on the 1st floor of the Macdonald Block at Queen's Park. We apologize for the error!

WATCH FOR IN OUR UPCOMING ISSUES ...

CSD, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE - a review of this soon to be released policy paper

THE YOUNG OFFENDER'S ACT - the role of the Children's Services Division in the implementation of this new federal legislation

CHILD ADVOCACY: IMPLEMENTING THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD -a status report on this discussion paper

MAINTAINING A CHILDREN'S VOICE - a look at the continuing role of Children's Services in a newly decentralized organization

OUT IN THE FIELD - A focus on Southwestern Region

If you would like to comment on any of the stories in this newsletter or have ideas for future stories please contact:

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Minister

Robert D. Carman
Deputy Minister

George Thomson
Associate Deputy Minister
Policy and Program Development
Peter Barnes
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations

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Reorganization	Integrates	Both
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A memo issued last November by Deputy Minister, Robert Carman, described the restructuring as a fine-tuning designed to bring together all Head Office and regional level operations under one Assistant Deputy Minister and to consolidate all Policy and Program Development functions under an Associate Deputy Minister.

The organization now consists of three divisions - Children's and Adults Operations, Children's and Adults Policy and Program Development and Finance and Administration.

The Operations division is responsible for the delivery of both Adults and Children's programs, including income maintenance and institutions. Much of this authority was delegated to the field with the appointment in January, 1981 of three Regional Directors in the Northern Southwestern and Southeastern regions. In the interim, the Central Region will continue to be organized under separate Children's and Adults Regional Directors.

The Policy and Program Development Division is involved in medium to long-term policy development and such policy management functions as corporate planning and evaluation and intergovernmental relations.

New Focus on the Family Will Not Neglect the Needs of Children

Now that the new structure is virtually in place, Mr. Thomson emphasizes that the focus on the family as a whole will not supersede the importance of recognizing the special needs of children.

He goes on to describe the many efforts that have already been undertaken to ensure that a children's voice is "clearly heard" in all Ministry policy and program areas.

One major decision was to maintain the separation of children's and adults operations at the Area Office level, despite the integration of the service delivery function at the Regional level.

Mr. Thomson notes that even within his own division, a distinct children's focus will be recognized with the separation of the Children's and Adults Policy Development units.

But he emphasizes that what will really solidify this distinction is that those with a strong commitment to children have become an integral part of the new system.

"To name a few - Peter Barnes in Operations, Michael Ozerkevich as Executive Director of Management Information and Evaluation and the newly appointed Executive Director of Policy Management, Harry Zwerver -- all of these people have a strong background in children's programs and a real grasp of children's issues," he said.

This Year's Policy Initiatives to Continue the Emphasis on Children

To provide a continuing focus on children and the family, Mr. Thomson says that he expects many new policy initiatives to be introduced during the year.

He notes that the policy paper, "Children's Services - Past, Present and Future" will be released to assess the long-term goals and strategies of children's services in Ontario and that the Omnibus Bill and Foster Care standards will be issued for discussion.

He adds that the Division will be developing further policies in the areas of daycare and adoption and will be determining procedures for implementing both Children's Services committees and the Federal Young Offenders Act.

Mr. Thomson says overall he feels confident that these objectives will help reduce the risks associated with the consolidation of adults and children's policies and programs.

"I hope that what we've been doing up to now will benefit children and that we can maintain the momentum" he said, "besides, developing family not just children's policies will give us the opportunity to be inventive - to do things never done before."

CHILD ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES MEET WITH GENERALLY FAVOURABLE RESPONSE

An assessment of the letters received during a recently completed consultation period indicates a generally favourable reception to the discussion paper, "Child Advocacy: Implementing the Child's Right to be Heard."

The person responsible for handling the consultation process, Policy Advisor Barbara Landau, notes that the response to the principles on which the child advocacy paper is premised as well as the advocacy measures already taken by the Ministry has been especially positive.

"Many people, particularly children's services and probation agencies, have welcomed the focus on hearing a child's views," she said, "and all of them have been very supportive of the measures already introduced such as the care by agreement process and Crown ward reviews."

She adds that most respondents supported the view of parents as the primary advocate for the child and a number were in favour of advocacy actions in progress, particularly residential standards and the tracking system.

Discussion Paper Advocates Child's Right to be Heard

The essence of the child advocacy concept is that children have the right and opportunity to be heard in any decisions made on their behalf.

The discussion paper was released last October to clarify the principles that have guided the Ministry in the development of an approach to child advocacy, describe advocacy actions already implemented, outline a number of changes currently being introduced and identify issues requiring further discussion and consultation.

The principles outlined in the advocacy paper designate the parent as the child's first and natural advocate, emphasize that the child should have a right to participate in the decision-making process and state that situations with potentially serious implications, such as abuse or neglect, require review through the courts and full legal representation.

Advocacy actions already introduced include amendments to the Child Welfare Act to allow children over 12 "a voice" in the care by agreement process, ensure a child's accessibility to legal representation whenever necessary, increase a child's participation in the decision-making through certain pre-trial procedures and to provide for regular reviews of all Crown ward placements.

The Ministry is currently working to implement such additional advocacy measures as residential care standards, special needs agreements, case management in particular programs (i.e. Homes for Special Care) and a child advocacy information or tracking system.

The paper closes by outlining some of the advocacy issues requiring further consultation and debate. These include consideration of: the difference between the right to be heard and the right to decide, the case management concept, advocacy techniques for young or incapable children, advocacy by "lay" groups and parent associations and the distinction between service provision and advocacy.

Though Many Responses Positive, Some React Critically to Paper's Focus

Dr. Landau says that those who responded favourably to the child advocacy paper found it to be a philosophical document that has set the tone for considering children's rights in the future.

"People involved either directly or indirectly in the legal system -- such as probation officers -- came the closest to understanding the document and what issues are associated with determining children's rights," she said.

She notes, however, that many service providers were critical of the paper, reacting fearfully to the focus on the child's right to a "voice" in the decision-making process.

At the same time she adds that there were those who felt that the paper did not go far enough to emphasize the need for more advocates other than the service provider.

To these comments she reiterates that the concept of advocacy, as denoted in the paper, relates to the child's right to be involved in the decision-making process as one of a number of participants.

"The paper is saying that the decision-maker (for example a clinician or a Judge) should hear an entire range of views including the child's even when those views may not be in the client's best interests," she said, "there is still the power to decide in a way which doesn't reflect the child's wishes."

Dr. Landau notes that, by the tone of their responses, some service providers also felt that they were being improperly criticized by allusions to the potential difficulties of being both a service provider and an advocate.

She explains that the paper did note the difficulties while also emphasizing that there is no reason why the service provider can't also play the role of advocate as long as he or she is aware of this possible source of conflict.

"What is most important is that all service providers need to recognize the potential conflicts in their roles and determine which role they are expected to play in which circumstance," she said.

She notes that many of the writers were also concerned with the degree to which third party advocates -- particularly para-legal persons and lawyers -- should be part of the advocacy process.

She responds that according to the paper, it is only in very serious situations, such as those involving allegations of abuse or neglect, that a child needs someone other than his or her parents to perform the role of advocate.

"Many respondents assumed that the paper is talking only about lawyers and courts," she said, "this was not at all the intent."

Dr. Landau says that the other major area of confusion related to the case management concept.

She explains that the intention is to create a system whereby one individual is identified as accountable for each case, without requiring the addition of a whole new range of personnel.

"To some people the paper seemed to suggest that we are planning to create an army of case managers. I can assure you that whatever is developed, in the majority of cases this function would be performed by the child's primary worker, she said.

Where difficulties arise is when multiple workers are all assisting the same client. This is what can often happen with the hard-to-serve child. The general feeling right now is that only in these extremely complicated situations will an external case manager be considered and even then, the accountability may remain with the referring agency."

New Omnibus Paper Will Incorporate Advocacy Issues Still Under Consideration

Now that the response period for the child advocacy paper has been completed, Dr. Landau says that consultation is continuing on certain issues, with the hope of indicating any resolutions in the Omnibus paper scheduled for release in the fall.

She adds that another discussion paper, which focuses on one specific advocacy issue, "The Role of the Lawyer in the Legal Representation of Children" was prepared earlier this year as a brief to the Law Society. (Please see next section for details).

LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN STUDIED IN TWO REPORTS

A brief, which contains proposals regarding the role of lawyers who represent children in court actions, primarily in child welfare and delinquency matters, was submitted by the Ministry to the Law Society of Upper Canada in January, 1981.

Copies of "The Role of the Lawyer in the Legal Representation of Children" may be obtained from:

Program Information
Ministry of Community and Social
Services
Hepburn Block, 6th Floor
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario.
Telephone: 965-3735

The Law Society's Professional Conduct Committee in turn released a report in May, 1981. This is available through:

The Law Society of Upper Canada
Osgoode Hall
Toronto, Ontario.
Telephone: 362-5811.

ONTARIO DEFINES ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

As the Federal Young Offenders Act moves into the parliamentary committee stage with the possibility of being approved by early spring, and becoming effective in April, 1983, Ontario is now considering the policies and procedures that will be adopted to implement this new legislation.

The Young Offenders Bill (C-61) will replace the outmoded Juvenile Delinquents Act in an effort to reflect present practices and attitudes about young people.

The new Act blends three principles: that young people should be held more responsible for their behaviour but not wholly accountable, that society has a right to protection and that young people have the same rights to due process of law and fair and equal treatment as adults.

Parental responsibility is explicitly recognized in the legislation. Parents will be encouraged and, if necessary, required to take an active part in any proceedings pertaining to their children.

The Act covers only those young people charged with specific offences against the Criminal Code and other Federal statutes, not offences of provincial statutes and municipal by-laws. It also states that a child below the age of 12 will no longer be considered accountable under criminal law.

Although the maximum age of criminal responsibility is set at 18, the provinces will be allowed the flexibility to select an alternate maximum. In Ontario this is expected to remain at 16.

A key feature of the Young Offenders Act is a change in the number of containment options. Dispositions available will range from an absolute discharge, probation, or a fine of up to \$1,000 to programs such as community service orders or actual committal to continuous custody.

In contrast to the Juvenile Delinquents Act which allows open-ended dispositions, the new Act specifies that sentences must be for a definite length of time not exceeding two years.

A provision has been included in the Act to ensure that each disposition is monitored continuously. A custody sentence will be reviewed at least once per year by the youth court or a provincial review board while non-custody dispositions are to be reassessed by the youth court.

Under the new Act, the records of a young offender will be destroyed and he or she given a "fresh start" once a sentence is completed and no further offences are committed for a qualifying period.

This uninterrupted crime-free period will be two years for those who receive summary convictions and five years for the indictable offences.

Ontario Implementation Will Involve Many Stages

For Ontario, the introduction of the Young Offenders Bill means several stages of consultation and coordination prior to actual implementation.

ComSoc has a leading role in the inter-ministry implementation project, which involves working co-operatively with the Attorney General and Solicitor General, the Ministries of Correctional Services, Education, Health, Treasury and Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as the Secretariats for Justice and Social Development.

As the coordinator of the project, Doug McConney, explains the major elements of the pre-implementation process include the preparation of an Ontario response to the Young Offenders Bill, a review of the financial implications of changing the legislation and the development of provincial policy including a consultation paper that will deal with a number of concerns related to the implementation of the new Act.

He adds that staff training programs, manuals and guidelines, public information, and a formal assessment of the use of the new Act are all initiatives planned for later in the project.

"The first two stages are well underway right now. The Ministries have been working on comments for the federal Solicitor General, he said.

Our second activity involves consultation with a federal task group in which we will be analyzing the cost implications of the entire Act leading to the negotiation of certain cost-sharing agreements with the federal government."

Mr. McConney notes that another important element of the pre-implementation process is the production of a consultation paper outlining suggestions and procedures for implementing the Bill throughout the province.

He says that he expects the paper to be issued sometime in September or October.

But he emphasizes that to develop the paper, there are many questions to be considered.

"We have a shopping list of some 29 issues which are concerned with how to operate under the Act and how to deal with matters now covered by the Juvenile Delinquents Act that will no longer be a part of the Young Offenders legislation, he said.

We also have to distinguish between those areas requiring policy decisions and the purely administrative or operational matters."

Some of the major questions include:

How will the province deal with young persons who commit offences against provincial statutes and municipal by-laws?

How will we deal with the behaviour of children (under 12 years) which would otherwise be considered offences?

What person, or persons, will be designated the Provincial Director to fulfill the requirements of the Act?

What places and facilities will be selected for purposes of custody dispositions?

Will the reviews of custody dispositions be carried out by a review board or the youth court?

Enquiries about the project are welcomed and can be addressed to:

Mr. Doug McConney
Children's Policy Development
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Hepburn Block, 3rd Floor
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario.

Copies of the booklet outlining highlights of the new Young Offenders Act are available in the Toronto area from:

The Regional Consultation Centre
Solicitor General Canada
2 St. Clair Avenue W., Suite 12A
Toronto, Ontario.
Telephone: 966-8107

RECENT CONFERENCE PROMOTES INTER-DISCIPLINARY COOPERATION IN THE TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE

Forty representatives of child abuse councils and committees from across Ontario participated in an interchange hosted by the Ministry's Child Abuse program at Niagara-on-the-Lake, May 4 and 5, 1981.

The conference was held to study issues affecting multi-disciplinary collaboration and served as an information-sharing session to examine how Ontario councils and committees deal with child abuse through professional training workshops; public education; treatment and case management teams; research, demonstration and community organization projects; regional libraries of books and audio-visual materials; and through interactions between Children's Aid Societies and hospitals, school boards and the police.

The interchange was the result of a questionnaire that had been forwarded in November, 1980 to 46 local child abuse councils and committees. It represents part of the Child Abuse program's efforts to promote the development of interprofessional collaboration.

Representatives from Brant-Brantford, Hamilton-Wentworth, London-Middlesex, North York, Ottawa-Carleton, Renfrew, Sudbury and Thunder Bay worked together with Dr. Herbert A. Sohn, Child Abuse Coordinator, and Renee Simon, a graduate from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Social Work, to plan the two-day conference.

Dr. Ralph Garber, Chairman of the Task Force on Child Abuse, presented a key-note address which provided some insight into the type of communication that should develop between people from different professions working on case management and treatment teams.

A summary report of the exchange, including information about problems and plans for the future, will be released shortly. The report is intended to assist local child abuse councils and committees, CAS's, Children's Services Committees and the Ministry's Area Offices to improve inter-disciplinary cooperation in the identification, treatment and prevention of child abuse.

A FOCUS ON SOUTHWESTERN REGION

**HAMILTON DAYCARE CENTRE PROVIDES
 SERVICE AROUND THE CLOCK**

Outside, the white frame building looks like any other house in this primarily residential area of Hamilton. Inside the rooms are bustling with activity.

A variety of children ranging in age from eight months to four years are in the midst of crying or playing, dressing or undressing; they have just arrived or are being collected by parents.

It's three o'clock in the afternoon and for A New Life Children's Centre that means a change in shift.

This licenced daycare facility is now open for business 24 hours a day and if necessary, seven days a week.

A New Life Children's Centre has been in operation for one and a-half years and is one of only two facilities in Ontario currently offering extended and night service. The second centre opened in March at the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home in Richmond Hill.

As the director of the Centre, Joan Aspin, explains the impetus for extending service beyond the regular work day was the increasing number of children she was being asked to take care of after hours.

"Single parents working shifts or odd hours have shown a particular need for help because they often have nowhere else to go," she said, "so I felt I had to provide services around the clock."

She says that of a total of 39 families who use the Centre during a particular week, less than one-half require the extended service. Of this group, no more than five children actually stay at the Centre overnight at any one time.

"If the parent is involved in shiftwork, this will of course depend on the shift," she added, "I would say that one week in three is about as often as a child is here at night."

Evening Program No Different Than
 Regular Daytime Activities

She notes that the program for the three to midnight shift involves essentially the same activities offered during the day.

This includes time set aside for physical education, learning centred around certain concepts such as home, the family and the body, and cultural activities such as arts and crafts and music.

She also invites grandparents to "drop by" and spend time playing with the children. Right now a total of five grandparents are regular visitors to the Centre.

"Of course by 8 o'clock these activities have ended, the children have been bathed and are in their pajamas ready for a bedtime story," she said.

Mrs. Aspin has set midnight as the deadline for taking children home and prefers that this be done with as little disruption as possible.

"We usually suggest that the child be removed to the car right in a sleeping bag," she said.

Fees for A New Life Children's Centre are the same no matter whether a child is attending during the day or the evening - \$65 per week for an infant, \$57 for a toddler and \$52 for the pre-schooler.

"We don't feel that we should charge any more for night," Mrs. Aspin said, "In fact, we are thinking of charging less. The Centre is not here to make money as long as I remain director."

She notes that there are certain circumstances when a parent does pay extra, however.

"Often a child staying overnight will remain into the next day's shift. In this situation I ask a parent to try to pay for that part of the extra shift," she said, "or during such times as statutory holidays, parents are charged time and a-half."

But she is quick to point out that all such prices are voted on by the parents.

"Each year I present our budget to the parents and let them decide whether to approve proposed raises or increases in fees," she said.

Night-care Concept Receives
Somewhat Mixed Reviews

Mrs. Aspin notes that so far the reaction to the night-care service concept has been rather mixed.

"A couple of parents were pressured into accepting this type of service and so they came in feeling rather uncomfortable and as a consequence, didn't stay very long," she said, "but they later came back because they realized that it just wasn't the same anywhere else."

"I think our job right now is to educate parents that the dangers of not providing this service outweigh the dangers of the service," she said, "we're just going to have to prove ourselves because we're setting a precedent."

**BOLD NEW PROGRAM AT SPRUCEDALE
SCHOOL OFFERS STUDENTS
EXPERIENCE AT ACTUAL WORK**

A group of students at Sprucedale Training School in Simcoe are being introduced to the rigours of the work-a-day world through a new program, "Better Opportunities for Life Development".

B.O.L.D., as the work-study experience is more commonly known, has been initiated in a lodge of the school recently renamed "Terry Fox", for residents who do not wish to continue their formal education.

The program co-ordinator and leader of the Terry Fox Unit, Clarence Wheaton, explains that the goal of B.O.L.D. is to prepare wards for re-entry into the community and participation in the labour force by teaching basic life skills and by providing experience at regular work.

"B.O.L.D. students are eventually placed in a work station in the community where they have the opportunity to work with an actual employer for a total of four weeks," he said.

B.O.L.D. Program Put Together in One Month

Mr. Wheaton says that the program was developed last August by a team consisting of himself and 16 other members of the Sprucedale staff.

"During the first two weeks we took time to brainstorm as well as visit various child care facilities to find out what others were doing," he said, "by the third week we were finalizing the draft of the actual program."

He adds that July and August were spent visiting some 30 businesses in the town of Simcoe to ask if they would be willing to employ a Stage Four B.O.L.D. student.

"The response to our request was almost unbelievable," he said, "we met with no flat refusals."

He notes that the name Terry Fox was chosen for the unit as a symbol of courage.

"Terry Fox had set such a spirited example of a young person with the determination to do something with his life that we felt our future students might take heart by his example," he said.

The Terry Fox Lodge was opened on September 8, 1980 with the arrival of the program's first two students.

Sprucedale Committee Approves Most B.O.L.D. Placements

Mr. Wheaton explains that the placement of new students in the B.O.L.D. program is usually determined by a school screening committee but says that applications for transfers from other units are assessed by members of the B.O.L.D. team.

Students under the age of 16 must also be granted an Early School Leave Certificate before joining the program.

Mr. Wheaton emphasizes that once accepted to B.O.L.D., students are required to fulfill the prerequisites and responsibilities of each stage before progressing to a higher level of development.

More Privileges Given as Students Progress from Stages I to IV

The students graduate from few privileges and almost total routine to increasing autonomy and responsibility.

During Stage One, which lasts four to six weeks, the student is to attend school for a full day. Classes involve basic life skills training in such areas as grooming and the art of getting and maintaining a job. Students are also asked to participate in one of the trade shops, ranging from auto mechanics to sign painting.

Privileges are restricted in this stage to one late night per week (Saturday), on-ground visits only and a basic weekly allowance of \$2.00.

Stage Two students are given more responsibility and a concomitant number of privileges as they are reassigned to a morning of classes and an afternoon of work. Their jobs are of two to four weeks duration and involve such areas of the institution as the kitchen or the laundry.

Mr. Wheaton emphasizes that students are allowed to select the areas in which they want to work but that prior to any assignment, all students must have an interview with their employer.

Although the work in this stage involves quite close supervision, students are eligible for a one day pass to travel off the school grounds with their parents, two late shows per week (Friday and Saturday) and a special weekly work allowance of \$2.00.

Stage Three lasts another two to four weeks and consists of a full day of work with minimum supervision. Students now have the opportunity to move outside to the perimeter of the school grounds in jobs including ground maintenance, handyman or construction work.

Mr. Wheaton notes that the B.O.L.D. team started a construction company in February which will build mini-barns or swing sets for members of the community upon request.

Privileges at this level remain essentially unchanged aside from the special work allowance, which is increased to \$6.00 per week.

Stage IV Students Gradually Reintegrated into the Community

In Stage Four the interface between the student and the world outside the institution increases dramatically as do the responsibilities associated with more autonomy.

Mr. Wheaton explains that the purpose of this stage is to reintegrate the student into the community by "severing the cord of Sprucedale in a gentle way."

This is accomplished primarily through job placement in the community. As in the other stages, students are given the opportunity to select a preferred area of work from among a series of community assignments available - such as auto body mechanics or veterinarian work - and are then required to participate in an interview with the prospective employer.

Mr. Wheaton notes that students do not receive a salary from their employers but are allocated a weekly work allowance of \$10.00 from the school. He says that Sprucedale provides working students with a lunch each day as well as some sort of transportation to and from the job.

He adds that outside of regular work hours students in Stage Four are allowed to visit friends in Simcoe unsupervised provided they return to the school by 9 p.m. and leave exact information as to where they are going.

He says that these students are also encouraged to travel home each weekend and are given the responsibility of paying for any transportation out of their weekly work allowance.

Mr. Wheaton explains that the B.O.L.D. team attempts to co-ordinate the termination of Stage Four with a student's expected date of graduation from Sprucedale School.

He adds that if a student successfully completes the B.O.L.D. program, he or she is given a certificate.

"But we do not grant a certificate to those who choose not to participate fully in the program," he said, "our philosophy is that we're here to help the students but we're not going to do their work for them."

B.O.L.D. Student Better Prepared for Re-entry Into the Community

One of the Stage Four students, Lonnie, arrived at Sprucedale last November and is scheduled to graduate from the program at the end of June.

She has been working with a Simcoe woman who decorates cakes in her own home.

Lonnie says she enjoys the B.O.L.D. program because she has been given the chance to prepare herself for the return to independent living.

"When you're locked inside an institution for a while, you get scared to leave," she said, "but in this program you have a chance to set your goals and make them work - so I have had time to get used to the idea of going back into the community."

SPECIAL SERVICES HELP KEEP HIGH-RISK JUVENILES IN SOUTHWESTERN REGION OUT OF TRAINING SCHOOL

Special support for the hard-to-serve child in Southwestern Region has resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of London-area juveniles entering or returning to training school.

As the Special Services Co-ordinator for London, Dan Murphy, explains, support means filling in some of the service gaps in the community or modifying existing programs to provide the hard-to-place child with an alternative to training school.

He describes the hard-to-serve juvenile as "high-risk", "unusually difficult", or "easily-swayed" and says that this type of child comes to his attention as either a probation or aftercare case.

"In the aftercare situation, the juvenile has usually been through many of the resources available in the community," he said, "while in the case of probation, I mean intervention with a child who has been involved in recurring delinquencies and is usually headed toward training school."

Program First Launched as a Central Service in 1976

The Special Services program was initiated centrally in 1976 with the elimination of Section Eight from the Training Schools Act.

This section had allowed a number of unmanageable juveniles in need of care and protection to be placed in training school although they had committed no specific crimes.

The thrust of this new program was to find places - either back at home or in short-term community residences -- for those "Section Eight" wards as they could no longer be held in training school.

This was accomplished through a series of case conferences which analyzed the educational, psychological and social needs of each juvenile and then matched the assessments to the most suitable resources available in the province.

The Special Services program became a formal unit in early 1978 with the appointment of a unit co-ordinator, Les Horne. At the same time, a team of clinicians and child care professionals - the Interministerial Placement Action Committee -- was established to provide back-up support and advice on planning for exceptionally hard-to-serve cases.

The responsibilities of the Special Services Unit were eventually transferred to the regions in the Spring of 1980 as part of the decentralization of Ministry services and programs. I.M.P.A.C. has remained in operation as a central consulting body and currently handles three to four cases per month.

London Support Program Provides Alternatives to Training School

When the Special Services program was started in London last May, the intention was to develop methods of intervention that would help reduce the significantly higher number of London-area juveniles being sent to Sprucedale Training School.

Mr. Murphy explains that this has involved the creation of resources that provide support to keep the hard-to-place ward in the community but also serve as reminder that he or she could be returned to training school, should behaviour deteriorate.

One such alternative is the newly established Bridgeway program offered through Craigwood Mental Health Centre in Ailsa Craig. This two-phase program provides residential and non-residential care to serve both the training school ward and the juvenile on probation. (see next story for full details on the program).

Another community resource widely used in Southwestern region is the one-to-one worker -- a treatment concept that was first developed by a Toronto-based program for young offenders, Project Options.

Mr. Murphy explains that the one-to-one worker provides direction to the hard-to-serve child and his or her family and adds that the degree of support required depends on the individual situation.

"A couple of kids do not have a good father image, while others are just looking for a friend," he said, "but I would say in all cases the worker helps to sort out the turmoil and provides the kid with the kind of attention he or she has never had before.

He says that he always tries to match up his one-to-one workers and hard-to-serve clients according to personality type.

"For instance, a kid who prefers to interact through sporting or recreational activities is usually assigned to a more outdoorsy type while a talker would be placed with a talker," he said.

He notes that 12 one-to-one workers are always on call and that right now seven are working with a total of ten clients. (nine boys and one girl).

One-to-One Worker Serve as a Link to a New Life

One worker, Phil Ruhl, has two clients and spends approximately 10 to 15 hours per week with each.

He says he sees his role primarily as a catalyst: "I help my kids pick up on new things to do and make the jump to a new life and new friends."

To accomplish this he tries to develop specific goals with each client.

"I help my kids set their own goals -- help them realize their age and what they want to achieve," he said, "then I'll go to school with them, tutor them or if necessary I'll go and help them find a job."

Mr. Ruhl says he finds one of the best ways of "breaking the ice" with his clients is through simple recreational activities.

"We will shoot pool, go fishing or just take a walk through the park," he said, "the atmosphere is relaxed, we start to talk and the problems soon come to the surface."

He adds that although it is hard to tell for sure whether he will have any long-term impact on his clients, he knows that they appreciate his efforts.

"I get a lot of thanks," he said, "and often I can tell just by the expression on their faces that they enjoy being with me."

LONDON-AREA PROGRAM PROVIDES BRIDGE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY FOR "HARD-TO-SERVE" JUVENILES

A new program offered through Craigwood Mental Health Centre outside of London is helping hard-to-serve juveniles to bridge that gap from arrest, court action and committal to custody to re-entry in the community.

"Bridgeway" consists of two phases -- a semi-secure residential treatment unit at the Mental Health Centre in Ailsa Craig and a non-residential Project Centre located in downtown London.

As the Director of Craigwood and the person responsible for developing Bridgeway, Ken Thomas, explains, the prime focus of the program is to provide a continuum of care and treatment to training school wards between the ages of 14 and 17 who need a more sequenced re-entry into the community.

"Without community-based programs, some juveniles fresh out of training school were returning to the streets, getting into trouble and just being sent right back to training school," he said, "in our research we found that of the 70 juveniles admitted to training school from the London-area last year, a total of 28% need some form of intervention after release."

He goes on to note that Bridgeway is also designed to be a court diversion program. Certain hard-to-serve juveniles who are identified at the court level as not requiring the intense structure of training school or Bridgeway Phase I can be returned to the community in Phase II.

A Continuum of Service Helps Unite All Juvenile Justice Subsystems

A key feature of Bridgeway's continuum of care philosophy, as Mr. Thomas suggests, is that it tries to link together all pieces of the juvenile justice system, around the court.

"Juvenile justice and mental health concerns are both given consideration. The Family Court Clinic, PACO and often even a member of Craigwood will take a look at a particular case and decide collectively which component would be best for the juvenile -- training school followed by Phases I and II or a direct placement in Phase II, he said.

Or if the child is already in training school, the collective gets together to review a client's eligibility and suitability for the Bridgeway program."

He adds that the linkages also serve to support the child should he or she break down in the community.

"Once part of Bridgeway, you're always part until you're actually discharged from the program," he said, "we are equipped to accept children back into Bridgeway Phase I on a short-term basis and can recommend that a child be placed back in training school until he or she is ready to return to Phases I or II."

In Phase I Clients Move "Halfway" Into the Community

Mr. Thomas describes Bridgeway Phase I as a sort of "halfway house" -- an environment with some structure though less intense than training school.

He says the facility, which opened to Bridgeway clients just last August, contains eight residential treatment and two back-up support beds and is labelled semi-secure because of the high staff-to-student ratio (A total of three counsellors are on duty during each shift).

Students spend an average of six to eight months in Phase I during which time they are involved in individualized treatment programs ranging from one-to-one counselling and group therapy to specialized education and life skills training.

As one of Bridgeway's senior Child Care Counsellors, Nancy Miller notes each student is assigned to a primary worker who is required to develop the client's plan of care including long-term treatment goals and possible behavioural changes and improvements.

She explains that this primary counsellor starts to work with the client some four weeks before he or she is actually discharged from training school to help ease the move to Phase I.

She adds that the key to successfully meeting any treatment objectives is the degree of staff involvement with the students.

"The staff is very open and will talk to the kids about almost anything," she said, "there is a real sense of commitment here and the kids know that even if they are sent back to training school, they will still be able to return to Bridgeway."

Bridgeway Counsellors Help Guide the Students Back Into the Community

Once a student is ready to leave Phase I, Mr. Thomas says that a community-based counsellor from Phase II again works with the client for four to six weeks to facilitate the reintegration into the community.

He describes Phase II, which first opened its doors in February, as an "on the spot" support program designed to provide skills for living that will wean clients off Bridgeway and help them establish strong footholds in the community.

He says that a total of 10 students are currently involved in the program and that those who have come from Phase I remain for one year while probationers enter Phase II directly for a period of up to two years. During that time all clients are placed either at home, with a foster family or in some type of group living situation.

Right now the Phase II Project Centre includes a full-time staff of three - one teacher and two community-based counsellors - but plans are to increase capacity by 100 per cent over the next six months.

As the co-ordinator of Admissions for Bridgeway, Karen Efron, explains the key feature of the Phase II program is its flexibility.

"Our role is to provide consistency and support to the kids whenever they need it. We help to hold all the ends together, she said.

For some that means academic assistance or life skills training. Others need help finding a job and even getting through an interview. And with some we actually have to go into the homes and work with the families to help solve the problems."

She emphasizes that the trickiest part of the whole process is convincing the students to commit themselves to the program.

"When you consider their treatment histories; these kids have been through all the traditional forms of intervention. Just getting them to walk through the door is important," she said.

Mr. Thomas adds that from the feedback received so far, a Bridgeway programs seems to be one of the most appropriate ways to deal with the hard-to-serve client.

"On the basis of discussion and some research, my gut feelings seem to be confirmed," he said. "this is about the only way we can go."

MINISTRY OFFERS NEW SERIES OF RESEARCH GRANTS

Research grants totalling \$400,000 in the current fiscal year have been made available by the Ministry. The money comes from the Provincial Lottery as part of a four-year four million dollar allocation and additional lottery money will be provided again next year from the remainder of this total allocation. The research program was initiated in 1979 and since that time some 28 grants have been awarded. Information on these past allocations may be obtained through the Ontario Mental Health Foundation (please see the address listed at the end of this article).

Research projects should be specific and with a fixed term of duration. Requests for one and two-year grants will be considered with funding in the second year contingent upon available funds. These funds are intended for research rather than programming or service costs. The research funds are not intended for major equipment purchases.

The grants program will be administered by the Ontario Mental Health Foundation and all applications will be subject to the Foundation's "Rules for Project Research". If you need a copy of the Foundation's rules or an application form, please contact the Foundation's executive secretary.

Research projects eligible for funding can involve any children's service areas within the Ministry:

- o day care
- o child welfare
- o juvenile corrections and detention
- o mental health
- o developmental handicaps.

Research can focus on children with special needs requiring any one or a combination of these services. The research program has an applied or operational orientation. This means that most projects are expected to go beyond the purpose of gathering broader knowledge in an area and should focus on knowledge which leads to action aimed at improving children's services.

The two research areas with equally high priority are:

- o Primary Prevention
- o Intervention Evaluations

Research proposals are invited in these general areas. More specific interests within these broad categories are outlined in the next sections to encourage research into important issues and/or with particular groups.

In order to further develop the research initiatives started in 1979-80, the Ministry is continuing with the same general priority areas. To avoid any duplication prospective applicants should review the list of projects funded in earlier allocations. If your proposal appears to overlap with a funded project (s), you should contact the respective researcher (s) for further information to ensure the development of new or complementary projects.

It is important that the grants program achieves a good balance which will reflect the various children's services depending on this source of research funding. In the present grants competition, we would therefore prefer to encourage the submission of proposals related to areas such as child welfare, corrections, or day care which have not yet received much support from the research funds. Similarly, we are interested in proposals focusing on special groups such as francophone or natives in relation to the following high priority areas.

A. Primary Prevention

The highest priority in children's programming has been identified as the development of services which prevent serious problems for children and families. Primary prevention projects aim to reduce the incidence of new cases in a population. There are two aspects of primary prevention:

- (a) a focus on modifying the stressful environment or specific protection, and
- (b) strengthening individual capacities to cope with stress, or competence promotion.

This definition suggests three goals for projects:

- o modifying the stressful environment
- o creating environments which enhance the social development of the child
- o strengthening the ability of the individual (children and parents) to cope with stressful environments and identifying characteristics which should be strengthened.

Examples of primary prevention projects which would be eligible for funding:

1. Studies of the factors which reduce vulnerability and which promote coping skills in children. Systematic studies of the "invulnerable" child.
2. Research on the core competencies of children, how they relate to each other and how these are linked to interpersonal adjustment.
3. Identification of important environmental variables that affect the incidence of problems such as juvenile delinquency or socio-cultural retardation and the development of methods to reduce the occurrence of such problems.

4. Determination and/or comparison of the effectiveness of specific prevention strategies with children identified as high-risk.
5. Assessment of the effectiveness of various prevention strategies such as family support models, self-help groups and neighbourhood networks.

B. Intervention Evaluation

Research is needed to test the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation strategies with specific disorders, disabilities, or problems. Within the Ministry, there has been a concerted effort to describe the child in terms of his or her special needs rather than a professional service area. This focus has emphasized the lack of knowledge regarding the relationships between the presenting needs and/or characteristics of the child and the most effective form of intervention.

A second area of focus is on approaches for shifting resources towards alternatives to residential care. Research is needed to determine the effectiveness of services that have an implicit or explicit objective of keeping families intact rather than placing children in residential care. The usefulness of intervention evaluations is increased if the project design includes a cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis.

Examples of intervention evaluation projects which would be eligible for funding:

1. Outcome evaluation studies of the impact (particularly the social impact) of specific treatment or rehabilitation strategies involving existing or developmental programs.
2. Studies based on differential treatment models assessing the most appropriate form or level of intervention for a particular type of child.

3. Studies of the effectiveness of different types of interventions with troubled children (i.e. comparing matched populations in terms of different types of residential care).
4. Comparative studies of various interventions aimed at diverting children from residential care.

Grant Applications

In cases where other specialized funding is available, such as drug addiction, it is suggested that proposals be submitted to these sources.

Collaboration is encouraged between the academic research community and various agencies serving children with special needs to ensure that high quality proposals are developed. It should be stressed that relevant projects may involve any of the children's service areas listed previously although proposals are encouraged in the areas underrepresented in previous competitions - child welfare, corrections and day care.

In the application form, there is a section pertaining to the relevance of the proposed project; all researchers should be prepared to explain the relevance of their proposals in terms of the specified priority areas.

The deadline for research grant applications is Wednesday, September 30, 1981. All applications should be submitted to Mrs. Margaret Clark, Executive Secretary of The Ontario Mental Health Foundation at:

365 Bloor Street East
Suite 1708
Toronto, Ontario.
M4W 3L4

Tel: (416) 920-7721.

The review process for this grant competition requires approximately six months. Therefore, the results of the competition should not be expected until March 1982 with the funding period to commence in April 1982.

Ministry Contact Person

If you need clarification regarding the research priorities or information about related developments within the Ministry, contact Dr. Roma Scott, Policy Advisor, at (416) 965-9884.

Information Systems

The Ministry has several information systems which might be helpful in the development of your research proposal. If you wish to discuss what is available, contact Ms Jean Linton, Project Manager of the Information Request Centre at (416) 965-4783.

NEW APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

Dr. Glen Drover recently took up responsibilities as the new Co-ordinator of Adult Policy within the Children's and Adults Policy and Program Development Division.

Dr. Drover comes to the Ministry from the Carleton University School of Social Work where he held the position of Director for three years. Prior to that appointment, he spent some time as Associate Professor at both McGill University and the Maritime School of Social Work.

Dr. Drover received his undergraduate training at the University of Toronto and Wycliffe College. He holds an M.S.W. from Fordham University and a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics.

In addition to his academic and professional qualifications, Dr. Drover is a widely published author with numerous articles, books and reports to his credit. Over the past few years, he has also been involved in extensive work for a number of governments.

**WATCH FOR IN OUR UPCOMING
ISSUES**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE - a report on
this strategy for the future

THE MINISTRY MANUALS PROGRAM
- a look at the services of the newly
centralized Manuals unit

OUT IN THE FIELD - A focus on
Southeastern
Region

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are always
welcomed and can be addressed to:

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Social Services

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Minister

Robert D. Carman
Deputy Minister

George Thomson
Associate Deputy Minister
Policy and Program Development
Peter Barnes
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations

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NEW MINISTRY PAPER PROPOSES CHILDREN'S SERVICES NETWORK FOR 1990

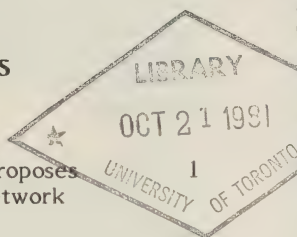
A newly released discussion paper takes a ten-year leap into the future to draw together the whole gamut of policies and programs for children in Ontario.

"Children's Services - Past, Present and Future" is the Ministry's prescription for a fragmented system -- a working diagram of a cohesive service delivery network for children and their families.

The Associate Deputy Minister of Policy and Program Development and one major contributor to the paper, George Thomson, emphasizes that the document should not be seen as a blueprint for the future but an effort to be as open as possible about where the Ministry is going on an overall perspective.

"As we have engaged in debates over individual items during the past three years, we have tended to lose sight of our broader objectives," he said, "this paper shows both consumers and service providers that we are still very much committed to those objectives."

The Director of Thistletown Regional Centre and another of the document's principle authors, Dr. Clive Chamberlain, goes on to explain that the intent of the paper is not to create a revolution in the types of service currently being provided but to paint a framework that defines the relationships between all children's programs.



"The individual program components have been in place for some time and seem to be doing a good job of addressing the needs of children but so far the issue of how these services work together has never been examined," he said.

With this paper we have tried to articulate how a relatively large number of complex parts fit into a cohesive whole."

Judge Thomson says that the paper also demonstrates the Ministry's ongoing commitment to consultation.

"We hope that it will foster a debate that can continue throughout the next ten years," he said.

Dr. Chamberlain adds that he feels these issues will help to promote a better rapprochement between the various service providers.

"Most people in the business have avoided dialogue with other people in the business for about 15 years," he said, "we hope that the paper will encourage coherent discussion amongst different agency programs."

Paper features an outline of the proposed new system

The highlight of the consultation paper is the "Status Report - 1990"; a brief prepared by the fictitious Ontario Council for Families and Children to describe the children's services system that could evolve over the next ten years.

A statement of long-term goals introduces the expose and provides a focus for the issues and changes of the proposed system.

The status report begins by describing the process for dealing with children under the new system, pinpointing the various access routes into the network and noting the procedures that must be considered to reach important decisions on particular cases.

The much simplified network will involve three service "streams" - offenders, children in need of protection and families in need of assistance.

The mode of service provision will also be improved to include increased levels of case management and advocacy as well as the presence in each local community of a committee that can assign special resources to hard-to-serve children.

The mock brief goes on to outline the spectrum of services that would be offered in the future network and explains the responsibilities of the major groups of participants.

The services are categorized as primary prevention, family support, care, clinical assessment/treatment/rehabilitation, supervision/protection and guardianship/adoption. To ensure a consistent balance in this spectrum of services, the brief also recommends that a core group of functions be provided in all localities.

The report reviews the role of the provincial government, the courts, local committees, service providers, volunteers and the clients in the provision of services to children. Of particular note is the expansion in the responsibilities assigned to the frontline worker and the more developed role for local children's services committees.

Paper also Looks at both the Past and the Present

The comprehensive view of the future is placed into proper context with an examination of the past and a synopsis of present priorities.

The paper opens by describing the general trends that evolved between 1850 and the early 1970's to set current patterns in the provision of social services for children and their families.

It then goes on to note the issues and problems of the mid-seventies that led to the creation of one provincial government unit to handle all programs for children with special needs, ComSoc's "Children's Services Division".

At the same time the paper emphasizes the provincial government's ongoing commitment, first voiced publicly in 1977, to the establishment of committees that would coordinate children's programs at the local level.

With the goals for change and the new service delivery network articulated, the paper turns to strategies for the present.

It notes the progress that has been made to date in four key areas for change -- policy/programs, organization/management, funding and legislation and ends by identifying the priorities in these four categories for 1980-81.

Among those projects listed include a policy paper on family support and a discussion paper on advocacy, the introduction of special needs agreements for developmentally handicapped children in residential care and the further development of an omnibus bill on children's services.

Mr. Thomson notes that the last part of the paper indicates that a fair amount of ground has been covered since 1977: "I hope it shows that we are willing to move fast."

He says that plans are to issue some sort of update annually that will outline what has been accomplished and what projects are planned for that year. He adds that a rough outline of priorities for next year has already been developed.

In the meantime he says that he recognizes the risk of trying to forecast ten years in advance.

"Everybody has long-range plans and we felt that we ought to get them down," he said, "but we are prepared to accept that many of the things we have proposed may not happen."

Dr. Chamberlain adds that the paper reflects a vision of the future: "It's fun to speculate - to imagine what things will be like ten years from now."

If you would like to obtain a copy of the paper or submit a written response, however lengthy or brief, please contact:

Program Information
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Hepburn Block, 6th Floor
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9

A FOCUS ON SOUTHEASTERN REGION

OSHAWA-AREA PROGRAM OFFERS A NEW VERSION OF FOSTER CARE TO MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

A unique type of foster care placement in Oshawa is permitting mentally handicapped children to receive training and support while remaining as close to the natural family environment as possible.

The Individualized Residential program offers long or short term care to multiply handicapped children in a situation carefully designed to meet their individual needs -- an ordinary family unit or substitute family that is capable of providing emotional support and nurture or a program of skill training and behaviour management.

This service is just one aspect of a three-part community-based system of care for the Oshawa area which, once fully implemented, will include a program of home support to assist handicapped children who remain with their natural families as well as a group home component.

All three programs are the work of the Children's Residential Services section of the Oshawa and District Association for the Mentally Retarded.

As Director of Residential Services, Paul Woodcroft notes that the IRC program, which has been in operation for over a year, is the first of its kind in dealing with the mentally handicapped.

He explains that this type of living arrangement provides an alternative to such children who really need to be out of the home to develop.

"The support needs of the handicapped child are very high and very intense; he or she usually requires a great deal of individual attention, he said.

Up until now the only answer was institutionalization, so often families kept these kids at home and endeavoured as best they could to meet their needs."

The substitute parents or Residential Associates, as they are more commonly known, are responsible for helping to design programming for their "foster

child" and also accountable for the way they perform their duties specifically in the area of life skill development.

Mr. Woodcroft explains that this programming is creative with a heavy emphasis on ideology related to normalization and positive expectations.

"We hope that the children are provided with the means and services to meet their everyday needs -- in other words, they should develop the skills and abilities to adapt to the normal rhythms of each day and each week, he said.

For instance, Mary will be taught to dress herself or eat her food appropriately while Billy will learn to behave in a certain situation."

Selection of Residential Associates a careful process

Mr. Woodcroft emphasizes that since these children establish roots with their Residential Associate families, his team must be extremely careful to select the right people to participate in the program.

He says the suitability of each set of applicants is determined by assessing their strengths and weaknesses and then trying to match them to a particular child.

Approximately 40% of the applicants so far have become Residential Associates," he said, "others have been asked to wait until we get a child that is appropriate for their particular skills.

He notes that the decision as to which family will be matched to a child occurs after a series of initial interviews and a 40-hour training course.

He goes on to stress the teamwork involved in the entire decision-making process, which includes input not only from himself but his Program and Staff Development Co-ordinator, Cecile Lynes, a Behaviour Management Specialist and several Children's Service Co-ordinators.

Ad campaign launched to publicize the program

Promotion of the IRC program has included a series of newspaper ads and a poster campaign.

Mr. Woodcroft notes that anyone who responds to the ads is interviewed via telephone and then invited to attend an orientation meeting.

If after this introduction to the program couples are still interested in becoming Residential Associates, they are invited to participate in a training course.

The course, which is scheduled over a period of two weeks, deals with the philosophy of the IRC program, the roles of the Residential Associates and the Residential Services support staff, behaviour management techniques and medical concerns.

The method of training includes role playing, films, discussion groups and lectures and demonstrations by outside professionals.

It is during these and other outside sessions, Mr. Woodcroft explains, that the Residential Services staff has a chance to assess potential candidates.

"A number of the staff are present at the training program to observe and relate to the participants," he said, "we also conduct a home study which includes interviews with the entire Residential Associate family."

Child's move to new family takes several weeks

Once the Residential Associates are selected, the process of moving the child from his or her natural family to the substitute home is phased over a period of three to four weeks.

With the assistance of the Children's Services Co-ordinator, a series of introductory meetings between the natural family and the Residential Associate couple are arranged in the home of the Residential Associates.

The new family will then invite the child and his or her parents for afternoon visits or dinners, which eventually graduate to overnight stays.

The role of the Children's Service Co-ordinator during and following this phase-in period is to arrange and monitor any services or support the child and his or her new family may require.

As Mr. Woodcroft notes, this means working with the Residential Associate couple and the natural parents to develop a strength/needs list on the child and from this, an Individual Service Plan.

"The data on these programs are kept and reviewed on a continual basis by the Children's Services Co-ordinator," he said, "this enables us to determine whether program objectives are being met or whether changes or revisions in the program must be made."

In the beginning, the Children's Service Co-ordinator will meet with the Residential Associate couple several times a week to provide feedback and suggestions for dealing with specific situations as they arise. But gradually as the Residential Associates begin to feel more confident in their new roles, the visits are reduced to about one per week.

Involvement of natural parents important

Mr. Woodcroft emphasizes that throughout this entire process, the natural parents are encouraged to take an active part in the development of goal plans and programs for their child.

"We also recommend that the parents visit their child regularly and take the child for weekend visits home or on vacations," he said.

At the same time a Behaviour Management Specialist is available through the Association for training and support or to monitor any of the programs developed by Residential Associate families.

A part-time staff person has also been hired to provide up to 15 hours per week of back-up support to the Residential Associates should they need an afternoon to themselves.

Biweekly meetings are now being held in an effort to form a system of support among all Associates.

Mr. Woodcroft explains that these sessions give the Associates the chance to share the concerns or challenges they may be experiencing and to clarify their goals.

Residential Associates receive a salary of \$350. per month and after a six-month probationary period, \$375. per month. They are also paid for the child's food, clothing and medical expenses.

As of August, a total of eight mentally handicapped children have been placed with Residential Associate families.

IRC program already a success

Mr. Woodcroft notes that of anything they've endeavoured to accomplish, Individualized Residential Care has proven so far to be the most rewarding and creative program.

"The feedback has been far beyond what I have ever hoped for both from the natural parents and in terms of the growth of the children and the enthusiasm of the Residential Associates, he said.

One Residential Associate family with a son, 15, a daughter, 14 and a new handicapped child, 8, put it this way -- in an institution there are about 15 or 20 kids with only 2 or 3 people on duty, but here we have a ratio of four staff to one child."

EXPANDED SET OF SERVICES TO REACH JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES

A vastly improved network of services will soon be offered to delinquent and disturbed youth in Eastern Ontario as a result of the recently announced first phase of a two-stage \$2.4 million community alternatives program.

The initial phase, involving some \$1.7 million, will concentrate on the Ottawa-Carleton region and the communities east of Hastings County, with the second phase to focus on the Peterborough area.

The major intent of this expansion in service is to establish a continuum of secure care, treatment and non-residential community programming to replace and supplement the services provided by the recently closed Champlain Training School in Alfred. All funds for the network are those generated by the closure.

As the acting Regional Director for the Southeast, Gerry Duda, explains, Champlain was closed and a new array of community based services initiated because of the gradual decline in the number of children using the school and the need for a less fragmented approach to service delivery.

"We thought that it was time to bring services closer to the child and create alternatives that are less obtrusive than training school, he said.

What we want is a responsive service that will take an integrative view of the child's needs and can be offered in the child's own community with minimum disruption or intervention."

Committee formed last September to develop new system

Consultation on the new initiatives began in September, 1980, with the formation of a Secure Services Advisory Committee to examine secure care and treatment issues and to recommend a comprehensive delivery system for Eastern Region.

Mr. Duda notes that this process included participation from a cross section of children service agencies - Children's Aid Societies, children's institutions, the children's mental health system - and was chaired by an Ottawa lawyer and child advocate, Lloyd Brennan.

This committee also sought the opinion of a series of key informants including the judiciary, legal profession and the police.

The committee first adopted a set of principles to ensure the development of a system that would respect the needs and rights of the child and then suggested a functional model with several key elements.

For the most complex network of services, the Ottawa area, this would involve a person to administer the implementation and review of the system, a co-ordination of assessment information for those children requiring secure treatment, a crisis response team to provide intervention on an "as needed" basis and a secure treatment unit as the most restrictive component of the network.

Regions's new network will include residential and non-residential alternatives

The service delivery system for the Eastern Region will include 53 new secure care and treatment beds for juvenile offenders and emotionally disturbed youths as well as eight community non-residential programs of assessment, counselling and family support.

Mr. Duda explains that in the less populous counties where there are virtually no mental health facilities, services will be introduced to deal with the short-term needs of children in their home community and to support the family in the treatment and care of children.

For some counties - Renfrew, Stormont/Dundas/Glengarry, Hastings and Leeds/Grenville/Lanark - this will mean the development of short to medium-term multi-use treatment facilities or group homes for up to six youths.

"I should emphasize that in these types of facilities a fairly homogeneous mix of problems - albeit traditionally defined as mental health, child welfare and corrections - will be accommodated because usually short-term intervention is all that is required," he said.

But he is quick to point out that not all mental health programs outside of the Ottawa-Carleton region will involve residential care.

In the counties of Lanark and Leeds/Grenville plans are underway to implement a type of mediator model that works with families to help both parents and child acquire new perceptions and skills for dealing with day-to-day problems. Similar programs are being examined for the county of Hastings.

In Frontenac county several members of the Queen's University Psychology department will be collaborating with local service agencies to provide behavioural management and counselling to problem adolescents. This program is also to be made available to surrounding counties.

In Ottawa-Carleton, plan is to integrate existing services

Mr. Duda goes on to note that in the Ottawa area, which involves the largest network of children's programs in the Southeast, somewhat of a different approach has been taken.

"What we've tried to do primarily is initiate better ways of utilizing the existing range of services," he said, "we intend to coordinate assessment resources and if there are gaps, purchase different assessment elements."

In order to better integrate the services currently available in the Ottawa area, continuity of programming, child advocacy and the case management system will all be key features of the new network.

Staff training will be introduced to promote more skilled intervention on the part of child care workers.

Plans for both a crisis team to address the needs of children inside and outside the home and a coordinating committee of service providers and other professionals to oversee the functioning of the new network have also been initiated.

Mr. Duda says that the hope is to implement a failsafe system with every effort made to provide security through the use of people rather than walls.

"Our approach in Ottawa is to try to prevent placement in training school or secure treatment, but if such an alternative is a necessity, we intend to facilitate the return to the community or ideally to the family," he said.

Where short-term secure care is required to control episodic behaviour, a series of eight secure or semi-secure crisis beds will be available to training school youths.

An existing Observation and Detention home will also be converted to a secure facility for up to five short-term training school crisis cases.

Other facilities planned include a six-bed secure treatment unit for emotionally disturbed youths, a semi-secure O and D group home for the short-term custody of up to eight youths in crisis and a multi-purpose group home to provide care and treatment for up to eight francophone youths.

Implementation of network to be underway by early fall

With the overall structure of the network determined, much of the responsibility for the implementation of the new services has been assigned to the region's five Local Children's Service committees or Voluntary Coordinating groups. The one exception is the Ottawa-Carleton region where the Secure Services Advisory committee will play a major role.

The coordination of the implementation process will be handled in Ottawa by Frank Szabadka, former superintendent of Champlain School and in the other communities by the Southeast regional office.

Mr. Duda notes that several program proposals have already been received with others expected in the fall or early winter.

He adds that some programs such as the Lanark and Leeds/Grenville counselling services should be underway by October or November with most of the system in place by the end of this fiscal year.

VOLUNTARY STEERING GROUPS IN SOUTHEASTERN REGION TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS COORDINATION OF LOCAL SERVICES

An interesting experiment with voluntary coordination of services for children is already proving to be quite effective in Southeastern Region at strengthening local planning and cooperation.

Voluntary steering groups are just one element of a long-term Ministry commitment to local coordination of children's services.

The ultimate structure envisaged for attaining this objective is a network of Local Children's Services committees. Five demonstration models are already in place in the regional municipalities of York and Niagara, the City of Windsor/County of Essex, Prince Edward/Hastings Counties and the Region of Waterloo.

In the meantime, while assessment of these pilot committees continues, the Ministry is encouraging the development of voluntary groups to acquire the experience in coordination activities necessary of full-fledged local committees.

The range of tasks proposed for all voluntary coordinating groups include identification of resources available in the community, the needs of local children and service utilization; distribution of this information to local government agencies, and establishment of a communication network within the community.

Southeast sees local coordination as a priority

In the Southeast, the implementation of a network of local coordination has been identified as a priority.

Although the Region's six voluntary groups are at various stages of evolution, as Regional Planner, Rick Williams notes, all are quite actively committed to promoting a spirit of collaboration within their communities.

Of the three communities visited last month, the "Children's Services Coordination Committee of the Regional Municipality of Durham" is the youngest. "Leeds-Grenville Children's Services Steering Committee" is more firmly established with "Prescott et Russell, Comité de Services aux Enfants" by far the most experienced at local coordination.

All three groups are mixed models with representation from municipal politicians, service providers and consumers.

The first tasks undertaken by each committee have been the identification of resources available in the community and an assessment of the needs of local children.

DURHAM GROUP JUST "GETTING OFF THE GROUND"

For Lynn Pilkington, being a new Project Coordinator of a relatively young voluntary committee has meant a fair amount of groundwork to make the group both visible and credible.

The 15-member Children's Services Coordinating Committee was formed in the fall of 1980 with a ComSoc operating grant of \$40,000.

Ms Pilkington says she feels that to achieve credibility the group must acquire a comprehensive database of the resources available in the Durham Region and from this, produce a conclusive report.

"The committee has to have something to put its teeth into," she said, "a good database is essential to the proper coordination of services."

Since she first joined the Children's Services Coordinating Committee in February, her work has been focused primarily on the production of a resource inventory.

As she notes, this has involved identifying all children's services agencies in the Durham Region and designing and pre-testing a survey questionnaire.

She explains that at all stages of the project, she conducts the research and then makes recommendations to the Committee for their approval.

This past summer, Ms Pilkington and her temporary staff of two visited the 200 agencies selected to conduct the survey in person.

Although this proved to be quite time consuming, we were guaranteed of collecting a complete inventory of area social services by the end of the summer," she said.

She says she expects that the data will be analyzed and the final resource inventory approved and ready for distribution by the end of the year.

In the meantime, Ms Pilkington has begun research on appropriate strategies for the next major task -- a needs assessment.

She is also working to improve the visibility of the committee through interviews with the local media and various speaking engagements.

"A press release was issued in June to report on the committee's progress and I have been asked to speak at a number of agency board meetings," she said.

She adds that so far, most people contacted have been very cooperative in providing her with the help she needs.

"At first people were suspicious because new committees are starting all the time," she said, "but now that we are doing something concrete we have gotten a really good response, both from the media and from service agencies."

LEEDS-GRENVILLE GROUP BECOMING ESTABLISHED PART OF THE COMMUNITY

As Project Coordinator, Josephine Matyas notes the past twelve months have been an exciting time for the Leeds and Grenville Children's Services Steering Committee.

Since the formation of the 17-member group in May 1980, the committee has been working hard to become established in the community. Subcommittees have been organized, a communication network developed and the resources inventory and needs assessment almost completed.

The majority of these tasks were initiated just last November with the receipt of a ComSoc grant of \$23,500. It was at this time that Ms Matyas was appointed Project Coordinator, an office established in the Brockville courthouse and bylaws drafted to provide a more formal structure to the committee.

Ms Matyas notes that the most important projects of the Committee's first year of operation, the resources inventory and needs assessment, are now in the final stages of development.

A directory, outlining all services for children in Leeds and Grenville, is in the process of being printed and should be ready for distribution sometime in early September.

She adds that the collection of data for the needs assessment is about 90% completed with some preliminary findings already released to the public.

She says that the methods selected to complete this phase of the project included face to face interviews with 28 key informants (judges, teachers, psychologists, etc.), a survey questionnaire issued to a range of families through local schools and a series of community forums.

What was identified overwhelmingly in the key informant interviews, she explains, is the need in Leeds and Grenville for some sort of individual counselling service.

"A large number of children's problems are the result of familial relationships and the home environment," she said, "in our assessments the emphasis was

placed on developing some sort of service that will help children and their families to cope with day to day emotional problems before they reach the crisis stage."

Almost 70% of those interviewed also saw the need for addiction education, assessment, counselling and treatment of services.

"Many interviewees stressed that drug and alcohol abuse were already major problems in Leeds and Grenville," Ms Matyas said, "and so they thought concrete action in the areas of preventative education as well as counselling and treatment were already long overdue."

Steering group branches into subcommittees

She emphasizes that in addition to their commitment to the needs and resources projects, the steering committee has been actively involved in the establishment of several subcommittees.

The five subcommittees are day care, mental health, research advisory, program and hard to serve with membership on all committees open to any resident of Leeds-Grenville community.

As Ms Matyas explains, the purpose of the research advisory group is to monitor all projects including the resources inventory and needs assessment; the day care group was formed to investigate the need for day care in the area while the hard to serve subcommittee is in the process of researching the concept of hard to serve with the idea of developing a permanent Leeds-Grenville committee.

She adds that the Program subcommittee has been involved in the organization of a series of seminars for members of the steering committee and the general public.

She says that these programs are held before monthly steering committee meetings and have included discussions on educational, mental health and other family support services available in Leeds-Grenville, alcohol and drug addiction and the legal justice system.

"The seminars are purely educational," she said, "we want to make people aware of the options and alternatives so we ask representatives of different agencies to explain the concepts of their programs."

She goes on to note that because there are currently no treatment facilities in the Leeds-Grenville area, mental health has so far been the largest and most active subcommittee.

She explains that a recent allocation of \$75,000 to establish a mental health program in the area, as part of the region's \$2.4 million community alternatives program, has given the subcommittee an opportunity to develop a comprehensive service plan for the area.

"The Ministry has set the guidelines for the new programming but we can recommend how it should work," she said, "we're really pleased that ComSoc wants to hear our recommendations -- that they want input directly from the committee."

Range of activities help make the committee more visible

Ms Matyas says that all of these activities have helped the committee improve its visibility in the community.

But she notes that the goal of the second year is to gain an even higher profile through further workshops, newsletters and press releases and by encouraging more members of the community to attend committee meetings.

"A lot of people are now coming forward, wanting to get involved," she said, "but we're a brand new organization and its going to take a bit more time to make people aware of who we are and what we do."

In the meantime she emphasizes that the group is committed to promoting integration between agencies where no collaboration previously existed.

"We're the body that can do the groundwork," she said, "we want to make sure that some group in the community facilitates interagency cooperation."

PRESCOTT-RUSSELL GROUP SEEN AS AN INNOVATOR ...

To the Ministry and to the other Voluntary Coordination groups in Eastern Ontario, the "Comite de Services aux Enfants" in Prescott-Russell appears somewhat avant-garde.

This is because of the committee's rather innovative approach to promoting collaboration between local agencies - the multi-services center.

As Committee Coordinator, Renee Bertrand explains, the purpose of this project is to increase the visibility of services available in Prescott-Russell by providing distinct locations where workers of several different agencies (CAS, Probation and Aftercare, the Association for M.R. etc.) can meet with their clients and with each other.

Three such centers have been launched all in the Russell communities of Embrun, Cassleman and Rockland. Embrun has been operating for a year and a-half and Cassleman for one year, both in local offices, while Rockland was opened just seven months ago in a local school.

She notes that so far the center concept has been the most successful in Embrun where the municipality has been cooperative in providing assistance and the local people have had the chance to get used to the idea.

"Most of these communities are poor with the lowest per capita income but the highest number of social service recipients, so municipal people have had a difficult time understanding why they should be paying for the services, she said.

Also in these small rural areas, people are used to having the workers come to them not actually going to the workers."

She says that she has tried to explain to each municipality that the centers will make the services more available to the entire community.

"I tell them that they will be able to plan more efficiently because with the multi-service concept, workers don't have to put in so much mileage," she said.

Committee's work an example for the region's other groups

Some of the region's other committees are also quick to point out that they appreciate being able to follow the lead of the Prescott-Russell group in fulfilling the tasks of their mandate.

The 15-member Prescott-Russell group, which has existed formally as the "Comite de Services aux Enfants" since the summer of 1979 and has received ComSoc grants of \$38,500 and \$40,000, is now undertaking projects far beyond the initial needs assessment and resources inventory.

In fact, as Ms Bertrand notes, their report issued a year ago, "Etude des Besoins et des Ressources pour Enfants dans les comtes-unis de Prescott et Russell" (A Study of the Needs and Resources for Children in the United Counties of Prescott-Russell) is already somewhat outdated.

She says that they are now in the process of analyzing every page of the report to identify the most recurrent or acute needs in the counties.

She notes that some of the basic services already identified in the course of her statistical analyses, community forums and key informant interviews included the need for more day care, transportation between communities, recreational activities, support for young parents and programs for 15, 16 and 17-year olds.

This data will be compared to the assessment of the community resources and all conclusions noted in a final report. The analysis is expected to be completed and submitted to the Ministry by early fall.

Subcommittees remain active in the community

Subcommittees have also played quite an influential role in the Prescott-Russell community over the past year.

As Ms Bertrand notes, the most active is the Hard to Serve which acts as a last resort committee to provide consultation on specialized cases.

She explains that if a case is identified as "hard to serve", the committee will hold a conference within five days of the evaluation to determine what type of services would be best for the child.

"They keep in constant contact with services outside the community," she said, "so they are able to propose alternatives and make recommendations."

Another subcommittee, day care, performs primarily a support function to prevent the unnecessary closure of any local day care centers.

Recently the Prescott-Russell group has begun to explore the concept of primary prevention. Ms Bertrand says that a workshop held for the community at large in early June indicated much interest in the topic.

She mentions that the group is also slowly getting involved in looking at the service plans of local agencies.

Though the group quite visible, communication still important

Although the Prescott-Russell committee is steadily becoming more visible, Ms Bertrand emphasizes that information is an ongoing priority in an area where the distances between communities are significant and population rather limited.

"I think that especially here it is very important to be close to the people," she said, "if they don't know your face, they won't know your service."

Every few months Ms Bertrand organizes a dinner meeting for workers of the community's various agencies. She has also developed a resource center of subjects pertaining to children's services and issues a monthly newsletter to a mailing list of 350.

She says that another way she has tried to make the committee more visible is by attending and speaking at as many board or association meetings as possible.

"I attend meetings of the school board, the women's institutes and the county council and have been involved with the Association for Parents with Physically Handicapped Children," she said, "it means long hours but it is the only way to give the committee credibility."

She adds that many community members, particularly service providers, have come to accept and approve of what the committee is doing.

"In recent months, when agencies have proposed the establishment of certain services, they have come and asked us for our support," she said, "I think that's a sign of credibility."

DAY CARE WITH A FRENCH TWIST TO DEBUT IN OTTAWA'S WEST END

Day care with a special flavour will debut in a new area this month with the opening of a strictly Francophone centre in the west end of Ottawa.

"Au Ballon Rouge" (The Red Balloon) is the effort of a group of French mothers, who live in this Ottawa suburb, to provide daytime assistance to other working parents while maintaining the child's cultural heritage.

The president of the centre, Suzanne Lachance, stresses that Francophone services are always needed in a city like Ottawa and explains that the name was chosen with the idea of possibly expanding the concept of parent-operated centres.

"We could have Au Ballon Jeune and Au Ballon Bleu eventually opening similar Francophone day care centres in some of the city's French schools," she said.

Right now there are a total of 3 purely French and 11 mixed or bilingual Centres in the City of Ottawa; none of them parent-operated.

Ms Lachance explains that the west end of the city seemed like the ideal location for "Au Ballon Rouge" because of the number of French families with young children that have recently moved into the area.

"The West End has at least one French family per block," she said, "but what encouraged us even more was that because of the age group of the children moving into the suburbs, right now a lot of schools have extra classrooms that they don't need."

It is in one such school -- St. Bonaventure -- that space in the form of three classrooms and part of the schoolyard has been made available to "Au Ballon Rouge" to set up operations.

Day care project takes over two years to launch

Ms Lachance says that work on the Day Care centre was initiated over two years ago when the Director of a French program in her community approached a group of parents with the idea and asked if anyone wanted to help.

She notes that of the five parents who originally started with the project, she is the only one left. She is now working with a group of three mothers on the final phases of the project.

The launching, she says, has been quite a complicated process: "It took one and a half years to find accommodation and then another year to get the necessary amount of funding."

Last summer "Au Ballon Rouge" received a donation of \$4,000 from the Conseil de Vie Francaise de l'Ouest d'Ottawa and a city of Ottawa grant for \$3,000 to purchase equipment and supplies. However, it was not until this past spring that the centre was forwarded a Ministry grant of \$15,000 to help pay for the renovation of the St. Bonaventure classrooms.

A local Francophone nursery school program that shut down in June has also donated a large proportion of their equipment to the centre.

Centre scheduled to open at start of school year

When "Au Ballon Rouge" opens on September 8, it will be accepting up to 35 children between the ages of two and a half and five.

Fees per week will be \$65 for all age groups with ten of the 35 spaces subsidized by the Ministry through a purchase of service agreement with the City of Ottawa.

Once fully staffed, the Centre will have a director, two child care workers and two assistants -- all completely Francophone.

Ms Lachance notes that parental involvement in the actual administration of the Centre will be encouraged to try to keep costs down.

"For instance we will form Operations and Policy committees to help support the Director and a Finance group that will organize one or two activities each year to raise additional funds," she said.

She explains that to be accepted into the day care program, at least one of the child's parent must speak French and French should be used quite regularly in the child's home.

"I should emphasize that because no English at all will be used at the centre, a child must be able to understand French," she said.

She explains that the philosophy of the "Au Ballon Rouge" program is to maintain a child's knowledge of French and his or her cultural identity by providing continual exposure to French Canadian culture and traditions.

"Programs will try to make the child aware of their French Canadian background through sing-songs, dancing, visits to museums or camps and stories about such French Canadian themes as the maple sugar harvest," she said.

Although the centre has done no publicity so far, Ms Lachance notes that already 15 parents have expressed their interest in the day care program.

In fact she says that the general response from French families in the West End has been one of approval: "Everyone has said, good for you. It's about time that something gets done for the French community."

NEW CHILD ABUSE PUBLICATIONS HOT OFF THE PRESS

1. Sexual Abuse of Children: An Annotated Bibliography (1937-1980) and Sexual Abuse of Children: A Teaching Guide - These training materials have been prepared by Professor Benjamin Schlesinger of the University of Toronto with the assistance of a grant from ComSoc's Child Abuse program.

The Annotated Bibliography (1937-1980): provides general information on sexual abuse and lists the types of literature available in this field. Among those areas covered include case studies of sexually abused children and their families, parental education, media and incest and legal implications.

The Teaching Guide: is geared primarily to educators in colleges, universities, hospitals and agency in-service training programs. Some of the key subjects covered include interviewing child victims, definitions and myths related to the sexual abuse of children and case management procedures.

2. Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect: Written by James Garbarino, S. Holly Stocking and Associates, this is the first interdisciplinary discussion of new effective ways of increasing the collaboration between formal and informal support systems to minimize child abuse in any community.

The authors first reveal the vast, largely untapped potential of a family's helping network of relatives, neighbours and friends in the reduction of child abuse. They then go on to explain how to pinpoint those neighbourhoods where maltreatment is most likely to occur; explore the factors that can affect a family's access to community resources; indicate how to identify a community's own problem-solving capabilities and based on these insights, suggest how to improve the practice of human services professionals.

3. A Compendium of Local Activities: This publication, which has been updated as of January 1, 1981, identifies community groups associated with child abuse and lists the names, addresses and telephone numbers of contacts who can provide specific information on child abuse.

All of the above publications are available, upon written request, from:

The Child Abuse Program
Ministry of Community and
Social Services
700 Bay Street, 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 1E9

NEW APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. Gerry Duda recently took up responsibilities as the new Executive Co-ordinator, Children's Policy for the Children's and Adults Policy and Program Development Division.

Mr. Duda comes to Head Office from Southeastern Region where he held the position of Kingston Area Manager for Children's Services and most recently, Acting Regional Director.

Since his start with the Ministry in 1969, Mr. Duda has had a variety of experience in both adult and children's services. He first worked as a vocational rehabilitation counsellor and later a field supervisor, an executive officer in the Deputy Minister's office and a district director in Belleville. Prior to 1969, he was employed as a caseworker with the Children's Aid Society.

WATCH FOR IN OUR UPCOMING ISSUES

FOSTER CARE: PROPOSED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES - a review of this soon to be released consultation paper.

OUT IN THE FIELD - A focus on Central Region.

STORY IDEAS are always welcomed and should be addressed to:

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"SPECIAL NEEDS" OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN RESIDENCE PROMOTED IN TWO NEW AGREEMENTS

This is the first of a two-part series on "Special Needs" and "Special Services" Agreements. In this issue we will be examining the basic elements of the new policy and presenting an overview of the implementation process. In the January/February CSD Newsletter, we will be taking a look at three residences in Ontario that are in the midst of negotiating the two agreements:

1. Huronia Regional Centre - Orillia (Schedule I facility)
2. Rygiel Home - Hamilton (Schedule II facility)
3. Dale Residence - Scarborough (community residence)

A new set of legal agreements that reflect the "special needs" of developmentally handicapped children in residential facilities and community residences are now being signed all across the province.

The "Special Needs" - an agreement between the parents and the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the "Special Services" - signed between the parents and the service providers - have been introduced in an effort to better meet the needs of the developmentally handicapped child by promoting increased parental involvement in the planning and funding of residential services.

As the Special Projects Co-ordinator, Val Elliott explains, the major proviso of the first legal document is that the parents have a child who is in need of the special care offered by a residential setting under the supervision of the Minister.

She emphasizes that the Special Needs Agreement is the vehicle which will permit Ontario to participate in cost-sharing arrangements as part of the federal government's, "Canada Assistance Plan".

Under this plan, the federal government will reimburse a province for 50 per cent of the costs of care for a child requiring the services of a residential program. The Special Needs Agreement is a means of indicating that parents are unable to provide such special care within their own homes.

Second agreement encourages parents to help plan for their child

She goes on to note that perhaps the most important feature of the second document, the Special Services agreement, is that it gives parents the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of their child's program.

"The parents are invited to meet with the residential staff to help work out an appropriate individualized plan for their child, she said.

The document will also clarify their own role as a partner in the treatment process by specifying such issues as when visits will take place, when the child will be taken home and the timing of joint sessions to review the child's program."

She says that in order to better promote this "partnership" between parent and service provider, the agreement will indicate that parents are to have access to all records on their child as well as outline the child's problems and the range of services being provided to deal with these needs.

By signing the Special Services document, parents also agree to contribute a certain amount each month towards the cost of basic care for their child.

This sum is set somewhere between \$40 and \$90 depending on a family's size and income level. The lower limit represents the monthly value of federal government subsidies to most families with children (i.e. the Family Allowance and Child Tax Credit) while the maximum amount is an estimate of the cost of basic care per month for any child living at home.

This means that all parents with a developmentally handicapped child in a residential program will now be paying essentially the same amount for service. Prior to the introduction of the agreements, parents using Schedule I or II

facilities were only responsible for contributing an amount equalling the federal family allowance payment while fees for community residences were over \$200 per month.

All parents will also be entitled to claim up to \$40 per month or \$120 per quarter as deductions from their basic contribution for transportation costs of over 100 km per month, expenses while the child is at home, clothing costs and medical or dental payments not covered by insurance.

Ms Elliott goes on to note that if, during the negotiation of the Special Services Agreement, both parties agree that the child needs certain services which are not available at the facility, the service provider can apply for special Ministry funding to purchase this additional assistance.

"In this way the money is tied to individual children and their special needs," she said.

Some of the services that may be funded include speech therapy, equipment such as special seating for a wheelchair or a standing frame, additional physiotherapy and placements at summer camp.

Implementation of the agreements a somewhat detailed process

Ms Elliott explains that although the two agreements have been signed as part of the routine admission procedure for all developmentally handicapped children placed in Schedule I and II facilities and community residences since April 1, 1980, implementation of the policy for those admitted into treatment prior to that date has been a special project involving much planning and field work.

She says that the implementation process was launched in the spring of 1980 with the first such Special Needs Agreements signed this past spring. In the interim, a province-wide information campaign was undertaken to familiarize both the parents and the service providers with the new policy.

A letter introducing the new program was first sent from the Ministry to the parents and a total of 11 Special Projects Officers were then dispatched to the field to interpret the policy in greater detail.

This was carried out from April to July through a number of information sessions with the staff members of the applicable facilities and residences and through a series of parent meetings held throughout the province.

The Projects Officers also undertook home visits with parents who were unable to attend the sessions and later to follow-up those families who for some reason continued to have questions about the Special Needs Agreement.

Ms Elliott goes on to emphasize the tremendous assistance of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded throughout the development and implementation of the new program.

"The actual policy was created in collaboration with the OAMR - an association that has been fighting for years to meet the special needs of developmentally handicapped children, she said.

They assisted in the development of a communications plan and a slide and sound presentation for the parent meetings and also put together a team of 100 "parent supporters" to act as advocates for the parents when they negotiate the Special Services Agreement."

She notes that sessions with the parents to draw up the Special Services Agreements should commence some 30 to 60 days after the signing of the Special Needs Agreements and that once completed, the agreements are to be monitored every four months. Negotiations of the first agreements were underway by the end of July.

She says that eight Special Agreements Officers are now working closely with Program Supervisors in the Ministry's area offices to review and assess all applications for special services funding.

This is to ensure that there is no duplication of services and that the approved funds are tied to a particular child.

Most of the agreements now signed

Ms Elliott notes that as of the beginning of October a total of 1,666 Special Needs Agreements were signed for the residents of some 44 facilities across the province. This number represents approximately three-quarters or 75 per cent of the "catch-up" group.

She explains that many of the remaining agreements have not been signed because the parents have either not been located, are residing outside the province or have been unable to meet to complete the process. She adds that only 110 parents or nine per cent have actually been negative about the initiative.

A small group refused to sign for a variety of reasons - they felt that government should pay for all of the services or they appeared to have some difficulty with a new process which involves them substantially in the treatment program. But most really welcomed having their involvement legitimized and some were even offended because they felt that the Ministry was asking too little.

As for the Special Services Agreements, Ms Elliott explains that many are taking longer than anticipated to complete while both staff and parents get used to their new working "partnership".

"Even with the excellent service being given, parents are making constructive suggestions about their children that they never voiced before, she said.

And they are coming up with things that were just never given consideration - for instance one set of parents wanted to learn their child's sign language."

MINISTRY PAPER OFFERS A STATUS REPORT ON ONTARIO DAY CARE

A newly released background paper provides a comprehensive overview of the current status of day care policy and programming in this province.

"Day Care Policy", according to its principal author, Dave Millar, is the result of a two-year review of day care undertaken to define the role and direction of the Ministry in the funding and administration of this service by detailing the historic development of day care and the spectrum of programs currently available throughout the province.

"We have attempted to include general information on services and funding that is not readily accessible as well as examine details with respect to specific kinds of issues, he said.

This we hope will provide some rationale as to why the Ministry has or intends to undertake certain programs or funding arrangements."

Paper features a philosophical review of the role of day care

Mr. Millar says that one of the key features of the paper is the presentation of the various philosophical perspectives on the function, objectives and effects of high-quality day care.

These range from the view that the day nursery is a form of social assistance for low-income families, prevention for children "at-risk" or a means of enhancing child development in general and for the handicapped in particular to simply a service for working parents.

"We have tried to deal fairly with all of these ideological positions and at the same time articulate that by providing subsidy dollars, the Ministry places greater weight on the role of day care as a service to low-income families and at-risk children, he said.

This philosophy of assisting low-income people gives them the opportunity to maintain employment and also ensures that children from "at-risk" families can participate in a preventive type of developmental program."

He goes on to note that another important highlight of the paper was the consideration of informal child care arrangements.

"This form of service still constitutes the vast majority of what is actually day care in this province and relatively little is known about it, he said.

While some people have suggested that all informal care should be regulated by government, there is little evidence to suggest that the public would see this as appropriate. In my view, a program of education and information to parents and informal care-givers is likely to have more long-term benefits."

He says that one interesting observation of the paper is that agency private-home day care programs are not proving to be as flexible and cost efficient as was perceived a decade ago.

"Supervised private home day care was originally created to provide a less expensive and more adaptive service, particularly in smaller communities, he said.

Yet the majority of programs now operate in urban areas, they service relatively few fee-paying parents and the total per diem costs are equal to or exceed those of centre care."

Paper opens with a historical overview

The paper begins by tracing the development of organized day nursery programs in Ontario from the opening of the first known day care centre in 1890; through the passage of the first Day Nurseries Act in 1946 and the subsequent licensing of all nurseries; to the rapid expansion of day care during the mid-1960's and 1970's due to the introduction of new federal and provincial approaches to the funding of social programs.

It then goes on to present the views that have evolved over the past century on the purposes and objectives of day care service and in this context, the paper outlines the spectrum of day nursery programs currently under provincial jurisdiction.

This includes statistics on the age distribution of children enrolled in licensed group care, regional utilization of day nurseries and the patterns of service (full-day vs. part-day and full-time vs. part-time) according to operator type as well as specific detail on programs for the handicapped, supervised private-home day care and group care services for infants.

The next chapter, a rather comprehensive overview of the financial aspects of day care service, is first introduced with a definition of the Ministry's role in the service delivery process.

The paper emphasizes that ComSoc has never been a direct provider of day care services, preferring that local government assume the responsibility for the planning and delivery of such programs based on local needs.

However the Ministry has been actively involved in the establishment and enforcement of standards of service for all licensed day care programs and in the provision of funding to three groups of agencies - municipalities, Indian bands and approved corporations -so that these local organizations may assist families in social and financial need with the costs of services.

The rest of this section details how a family's eligibility for financial assistance is determined, the provincial formulae for funding local organizations and the distribution of Ministry expenditures among regions, program types and agencies; ending with a short description of the fees charged for various day nursery programs.

Present and future initiatives discussed in final section

The final chapter involves an overview of current policy initiatives as well as possible future directions in the day care field.

These are put into perspective with an initial discussion of the effects of day care and the factors that have both constrained and guided the Ministry in the development of long-term policy on day nursery services.

The paper then goes on to list a series of long-term strategies and ten new day care initiatives, totalling \$11 million, which were announced last December as the first step to promoting a more comprehensive array of services and ensuring the effective use of existing resources.

Some of the key initiatives for this year include the expansion of alternative forms of service delivery such as family group care, the further promotion of integrated services for handicapped children and increased public education on day care.

Mr. Millar says that given the proposed broadening of scope and refinement in service, it will be interesting to see how the statistics contained in the report change over the next few years.

"One of the best long-term uses for the paper will be to compare the service system of five years from now with what is available today," he said.

Copies of the paper may be obtained by contacting:

Program Information
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Hepburn Block, 6th Floor
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 1E9

Tel: (416) 965-3111

"YOUNG OFFENDERS" PAPER NEWLY RELEASED FOR DISCUSSION

A new Ontario consultation paper, "Implementing Bill C-61: The Young Offenders Act" is now available for distribution. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact:

Program Information
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Hepburn Block, 6th Floor
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 1E9

Tel: (416) 965-3111

Watch for a complete report on the paper in our next issue'

A FOCUS ON CENTRAL REGION



**NORTH YORK SUPPORT PROJECT
 PREPARES SINGLE MOMS FOR
 CHILDBIRTH AND PARENTING**

A group of young single mothers in North York are now receiving prenatal support and postnatal instruction in parenting as part of a new children's aid program of primary prevention.

The Young Mother's Support project - the first of its kind in the Metro Toronto area - is under the joint sponsorship of the North York Branch of the Metro Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Society, the Department of Public Health in North York and the York-Finch Hospital.

After only ten months of operation, two complete prenatal and parenting sessions have already been completed with a total of 52 girls currently involved in the program - 39 in training groups and the rest through individual counselling sessions.

The proposal for the program was developed by the Branch Manager of the North York CCAS, Ernie Manglicas. The project itself is administered by CCAS program supervisor, Gladys McMullin and the sessions are taught by Heather Martin (the Young Mother's Support worker) and Anne Stephens, a public health nurse in North York.

As both Ms McMullin and Ms Martin note, because of the newness of the project, several changes have been introduced since its inception.

"We have found that only by repeating the classes are we able to weed out information that is not pertinent and refine the content of each set of sessions," they said.

Ms Martin also stresses the importance of being flexible in this type of program.

"Each new group requires individual attention," she said, "although I will stick to the same basic concepts from session to session, the point at which I introduce them and the methods I use to teach may change depending on the make-up of the group."

**Program involves separate prenatal
 and postnatal sessions**

Ms Martin says that the standard support offered to all young mothers referred to the program includes thirteen prenatal sessions and with the delivery of the babies, thirteen classes on basic parenting.

She goes on to explain that the primary objective of the first set of sessions is to prepare the expectant mothers both physically and emotionally for the experience of childbirth while helping them to develop healthy lifestyles.

Once the child is born, the groups offer the new mothers a chance to share experiences with others in the same situation and at the same time acquire some additional parenting skills.

The programming in the prenatal classes includes discussions on the physical and emotional changes that take place during pregnancy, basic nutrition and the process of labour and delivery. Breathing techniques are introduced to encourage relaxation during the birth process.

In the parenting groups, the mothers review basic feeding practices and explore such topics as adjusting to a new baby, responding to a child's emotional and physical needs and how one's parenting skills actually evolve.

Two new components have been added to the current session: Dancercise instruction and classes in advanced parenting for those girls who have been through the basic training but wanted to come back to "fine-tune" their skills.

Ms Martin goes on to note that she is in the process of implementing a program of home instruction to run concurrently with the groups, that will help girls who have trouble establishing routines with their infants.

Counselling and support in the form of home visits will also be provided for a minimum of one year to mothers who have completed the basic training sessions.

She says that a child management worker and a number of volunteers - child management aides - will be assisting her with this part of the project.

At the same time she is examining the need for a post-adoption service that could be offered on a one-to-one basis to those girls who decide not to keep their babies.

Some basic attention helps promote regular attendance

Since the motivation of many of the girls to regularly attend the groups is not always the strongest, she emphasizes the importance of phoning them at least once per week and arranging that they have a ride to each class.

"Sometimes it's just a matter of keeping after them so that they understand the importance of coming to each class," she said, "and when they don't turn up I make sure they know how much we've missed them".

At the start of a session, each new group is asked to draw up and agree verbally on a contract which stipulates, among other things, that they are to contact one of the instructors if they are unable to attend a particular class.

This group contract also ensures that during the class, the girls limit their smoking to the breaks and that at least one "prenatal" or "postpartum" party is held per session.

When the girls actually have their babies, Ms Martin visits them in hospital with flowers and free samples of baby products.

Most girls start program halfway through pregnancy

Ms McMullin says they usually recommend that the girls join the program as close as possible to the fifth month of pregnancy.

"Since the prenatal session lasts approximately three months, this means that they would be finished just in time for delivery, she said.

But if the scheduling of a particular session is earlier than this target date, we suggest that they continue on into the next session."

Referrals to the program come from a variety of places including Metro CAS and CCAS social workers, area schools, the York-Finch public health department and General Hospital, the Scarborough public health department and Centenary Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children and even the unwed mothers themselves.

"A considerable amount of public relations work was done when the project was first launched," she said, "a flyer was issued and Heather visited a number of hospitals and high school guidance departments."

Project receives positive feedback

Ms Martin says that so far the response to the new program both from the community and the girls has been quite positive.

As one new mother, Annakay, noted: "I like being able to talk to other people in the same boat and find out what other mothers are doing. Besides, it's a great break from home."



NORTH YORK TREATMENT PROGRAM A REAL "ADVENTURE" FOR PRESCHOOLERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

When Adventure Place first opened its doors in North York in 1972, the aim was to develop a comprehensive program of assessment and psychoeducational treatment that could be offered to pre-school children with special needs.

As the Centre's Executive Director and Program Co-ordinator, Clara Will explains, this meant a service that would respond to any type of emotional or behavioural problem, physiological handicap, learning or communication disability in as normalized an environment as possible.

"The Adventure Place program is designed to meet the general needs of young children with a range of specific programming integrated into the daily sessions to respond to specialized needs," she said, "at the same time, the main criterion for acceptance to the Centre is need."

Now, after a six-year effort to solicit funding, operations have been extended to Overland School in the eastern part of North York to meet an increased demand for service.

Adventure Place-East opened just last month as a collaborative venture of the Ministries of Community and Social Services and Education and the North York Board of Education.

This year the two centres have received a total of approximately \$500,000 in funding from ComSoc. The Ministry of Education has provided assistance in the form of teaching staff, supplies and equipment while the North York Board of Education has donated the space in the eastern centre.

However Mrs. Will is also quick to emphasize the fantastic support of parents in actually getting the new centre "off the ground".

"I was amazed with their response to our request for help - they donated furniture, office supplies and toys as well as plenty of their own time," she said.

Right now a total of 92 children from two and a-half to seven years are enrolled in the two programs - 66 at the centre in Faywood Public School and 26 at Adventure Place-East.

Of this number a maximum of only 20 children actually attend the program all day with most of the rest involved half-time in other classes or activities.

Play activities a key element of the program

A basic facet of the programming philosophy at the two Centres, according to Mrs. Will, is that play is the most valuable medium for learning.

"I think that Adventure Place would be good for any young child because our children participate in a creative and challenging program and have fun at the same time," she said.

She explains that the daily routine involves a mixture of activities including play, arts and crafts, creative drama, music, gross motor exercise, movement, cooking and various outings. Into this is integrated speech and language therapy and specific pre-academic and academic skill development.

"The teacher-therapists know what each child needs so they try to take opportunities to work on these problems throughout the daily program, she said.

At the same time, speech and language groups are scheduled and certain behaviour management techniques are utilized to respond to specific needs."

Mrs. Will is quick to reiterate, however, that the Adventure Place staff do not just offer a standard program to all of the children.

"We try to allow for a lot of flexibility," she said, "instead of pre-determined plans, treatment for the children is worked out according to individual need."

One of the initial goals for all children who enter the program, however, is that they learn to feel good about themselves.

"From day one, we work to try to develop their strengths," she said, "every child regardless of handicap has some strengths and it is important to emphasize these while also helping the child with the weak areas."

Series of assessments used to define children's needs

The needs of the children are determined over a period of four months through a series of assessments by a clinical team consisting in most cases of a teacher-therapist, social worker, psychologist, speech pathologist, educational specialist, day care and school consultant, home program worker and paediatrician.

Besides ascertaining at which level the child is developmentally and from this prescribing a complete set of treatment objectives and a specific program plan, the group will provide counselling support to the families and consultation to such community agencies as day care centres and nursery schools.

The children remain in the program anywhere from four months to three years depending on the degree of treatment necessary and the type of outside placements available.

"We try to discharge our children as soon as possible but will only do so if there are appropriate placements for them, she said.

Most enter public and nursery schools or special education classes while a very small number of others are transferred to other mental health centres for older children or the school system for the retarded."

Special class helps integrate some children into the regular school system

For some of those children who are scheduled to enter the regular public school system, Mrs. Will provides an interesting form of integration.

In the last stages of treatment, these children are placed in a specific class that includes a "core group" of six children who, for all intents and purposes, are developing normally.

"The core children provide normal models for the kids who are integrating and at the same time they help to normalize the environment of the entire program," she said.

She adds that the rest of the children either integrate into classes with the host school or directly into their home schools.

She goes on to note that after the children requiring assessment and treatment are discharged from the program, follow-up is continued for a period of at least two years.

"We have a school liaison worker on staff whose primary role is to maintain contact with and support the kids wherever they go, especially the ones who have most recently left the program," she said.

Adventure Place leaves some lasting memories

Mrs. Will says that Adventure Place seems to leave quite a lasting impression on many of their children.

"Sometimes when we follow up one of our former students in school a few years later, we are amazed by how much the child seems to remember of his or her time here, she said.

I think that's because very close relationships develop between the children and the staff - and what's most important the kids work with people who believe in them."

TRI-MINISTRY PROJECT A "DEVELOPMENTAL STEP" FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN OF KESWICK NURSING HOME

Five programs were recently introduced at the Jann Lynn Home in Keswick - the first in a series of developmental projects for the some 300 mentally retarded children in nursing homes throughout Ontario.

The new services for the 33 Jann Lynn residents include an expanded infant stimulation program, organized recreation, behaviour management training, an adult developmental program and a part-time social worker, physiotherapist and occupational therapist.

A total of \$350,000 in funding has been allocated to the programs as part of a joint project of three Ministries - Community and Social Services, Health and Education - launched over one year ago to provide developmental training to the 2997 mentally retarded clients of Homes for Special Care and nursing homes.

The actual services are all designed and developed by outside agencies - in the case of Jann Lynn this involves the Sutton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded, York Day Care Services, the York Central Hospital as well as the local Board of Education.

Jann Lynn residents all multi-handicapped

As the administrator of the nursing home and coordinator of the new programs, Paula Jourdain explains, the Home's clients are all multi-handicapped with physical problems such as epilepsy and cerebral palsy in addition to severe retardation. Most are unable to walk and all are not toilet-trained.

"What these children need are services that will maximize their developmental potential while at the same time recognizing their physical care needs," she said.

She emphasizes that the new programming is individualized based on a series of physiological, educational and social assessments undertaken to identify the child's level of functioning with specific attention to basic gross and fine motor, communication and self-help skills.

The initial assessments were completed last April and the program staff began working with the children in early September.

Children assigned to one of three essential programmes

Ms Jourdain explains that each child has been placed in one of three core programmes: developmental training within the home, an

educational program either at Jann Lynn or in a community school or an adult developmental program outside of the home.

Depending on the needs of the child, services will also be provided by a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, recreationalist, behaviour management consultant and a social worker.

She notes that the basic developmental training planned for the children is really an expanded and more formalized version of an infant stimulation program that was started in the Home last year by the Region of York Day Care Services.

One of the agency's early childhood educators located at Jann Lynn, Dianne Robertson, explains that the newly enlarged service will work to provide the children with some basic gross motor and self-help skills and even a bit of language.

"For instance we are trying to develop their protective reactions as well as hand-eye coordination and reaching mechanisms in the hope of promoting self-feeding, she said.

At the same time we are looking at ways the children communicate with us so that we can better communicate with them."

Older children instructed outside the Home

For the six older residents of Jann Lynn, an adult developmental program is being offered outside the home by the Sutton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded.

As the Program Manager, Ann Kincaid explains, the objective of this service is to help its participants become more independent in terms of communication, social and basic life skills.

"We hope that eventually they can be placed in a pre-vocational program," she said, "but of course that can't happen until they are toilet-trained and are able to feed themselves."

To promote these skills Mrs. Kincaid involves her clients in a daily routine that includes training in behaviour management, toileting, hygiene and proper eating habits as well as trips out into the community.

"We take the clients out on such things as shopping trips because we feel that they should socialize with other people in the community," she said.

Education programme just newly implemented

The educational component sponsored by the York Board of Education was just recently implemented for a number of the Home's school-age children. A teacher is located directly at Jann Lynn to work on fine-motor and pre-speech skills with a total of twelve children. Only two children are currently enrolled outside the home in a community school.

In addition to this basic training, a full-time recreational coordinator has been hired through the Sutton and District M.R. Association to design a complete program of leisure activities for all of the children. For instance, beauty and music classes are held in the Home each week and some children are involved in such outside programs as swimming.

Behaviour management services of the York Central Hospital have also been initiated at the Home to provide additional training in new skills while eliminating certain problem behaviours.

And so far Jann Lynn's new social worker has been primarily involved in meeting all of the parents to outline the new services and invite them to participate in the development of appropriate programming for their children.

In-house meetings encourage collaboration between staff members

Now that significant components of all of the programs are in place, Ms Jourdain says that weekly in-house training sessions have been introduced to promote communication and cooperation among the service providers and nursing staff.

"This has resulted in shared responsibility for the developmental training and has helped promote greater understanding of the interdependence of nursing care and development needs," she said.

She explains that it is her role to ensure that the programs are in place and working based on pre-determined treatment goals for each of the children but that the actual programming is the responsibility of the sponsoring agencies.

"We'll agree on program objectives; however I leave it to the agencies to find the means of reaching these objectives because they're the experts," she said.

She goes on to note that while every program will monitor the progress of its own clients, a multi-disciplinary review of each child will be conducted every six months. Parents will be encouraged to participate in these sessions.

She adds that the Tri-Ministry project administrators will be conducting an evaluation in a year to determine whether the programming at Jann Lynn has been effective.

RICHMOND HILL FACILITY PLAYS HOST TO THREE NEW SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

An integrative approach to service delivery is being tested at the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home in Richmond Hill with the launching of three very different children's programs under one roof.

These include treatment in the form of a therapeutic preschool program and training for youths with learning disabilities and for normal children, the services of a flexible day care centre.

The person responsible for developing and coordinating this new network of programs, consultant Dorothy Easton, hopes that eventually Loyal True Blue and Orange Home can become a community child and family resource centre.

"This of course will have to mean a series of very well-coordinated services," she said, "in other words sharing among programs and a real willingness on the part of the different staff members to work together."

In the meantime she suggests that the provision of several different programs in one facility should reduce the likelihood of children being lost between services.

"It will make it easier for parents to find appropriate assistance for their children if and when help is required," she said.

She also emphasizes that the Home's special blend of services should prevent it from being labelled as solely a treatment facility.

"I hope that the mix of programs will help children who have special needs to learn from normal children, she said.

For instance I think it would be a positive experience for the adolescents in the learning disabilities program to work with the younger children or the children in the therapeutic pre-school program to be integrated into regular daycare before returning to their own nursery schools."

L.T.B.O. Home part of the community for over 50 years

As the Chairman of the Loyal True Blue and Orange Board of Directors, Gordon McCracken explains, the Home was first opened in 1923 as an orphanage for needy children.

At that time operations were jointly financed and administered by the Loyal True Blue Association, the Grand Lodges of Ontario East and West and the Ladies Benevolent Association of Ontario East and West - who also own the Home and the surrounding property.

He goes on to note that in 1948 the Home was licensed as a Children's and Youth Institution and thus became eligible for government subsidization.

L.T.B.O. continued to operate in this capacity until early 1980 when a Ministry review, as part of a province-wide policy and program restructuring, determined that this type of residential service was no longer feasible for York Region.

The new services are jointly administered by an advisory committee composed of representatives from the L.T.B.O. Board, the community and where applicable, the sponsoring agencies.

The flexible day care centre is funded and administered by the Home itself; the other two services are funded primarily by ComSoc with the youth program under the sponsorship of the York Centre for Learning Disabilities in Richmond Hill and the service for pre-schoolers a program of Aurora's Blue Hills Academy.

Three programmes now in "full swing"

Of the three newly implemented services, the two for pre-schoolers were well underway when the home was visited early in October while the youth program was scheduled to commence full operations by the end of October.

As Blue Hills Director Peter Rossborough explains, the therapeutic pre-school program consists of two main components - behaviour management and education provided directly at the facility and a consultation and assessment service for community nursery schools and day care centres.

He notes that the direct services are offered to children who are determined impossible to assess and manage either in their own homes or within a regular pre-school program or are considered difficult to treat due to severe emotional disturbances and such problems as mild autism and aphasia.

Right now there are a total of eight children (six in the morning and two in the afternoon) receiving full-time treatment from two teachers (or early childhood educators) and where necessary, a speech therapist.

For both the morning and afternoon participants, the daily routine includes some mixture of play, storytelling, creative drama, arts and crafts, music, sense and body awareness exercises, concept development and outdoor activities; all based on weekly themes.

The general idea is to provide a "normalized" environment, emphasizes Mr. Rossborough, into which can be integrated specific treatment methods and programming tailored to the particular needs of each child.

He also stresses the importance of offering support to the families of these children in the form of instruction on proper child management techniques and if necessary, marital counselling.

"At some point, all parents are involved in a session with the social worker who will then develop a treatment plan for the family, he said.

This would include a schedule of parent visits to the program and might also involve parent education or family therapy."

Mr. Rossborough is quick to point out that the assessment and support provided at the Home is extended to the general community through the second part of the program - consultation at the region's day care centres and nursery schools.

As he explains, the purpose of this service is to help reduce the need for direct treatment by assisting the staff of pre-school facilities to identify and assess potential problem children and then recommend suitable remedial programming techniques to promote speech development and behaviour management.

He adds that right now the two community staff members are swamped with requests, but try to visit the region's 46 private and municipally operated nursery schools and day care centres at least three or four times per month.

Flexible day care program a Ministry pilot project

The supervisor of the flexible day care centre, Janice Crawford, says that the L.T.B.O. program is being used by the Ministry as a pilot project in an effort to develop standards under the Day Nurseries Act for this newly extended form of care.

Indeed the Loyal True Blue centre is one of only two facilities in the province currently offering 24-hour service. The other, A New Life Children's Centre in Hamilton, has been in operation for one and a-half years.

Ms Crawford notes that the intent of the program is to provide a flexible yet enriching service for two and a-half to five year olds with parents who work shifts.

Depending on the needs of the parents during a particular work week, full day care could mean that the child is placed at the Centre anywhere from eight to 18 hours.

She explains that since parents are asked not to remove their children from the Centre after 8:30 p.m. in order to ensure a full night's sleep without disruption, most children who arrive in the afternoon will remain until 8:30 the next morning.

Parents on the night shift are requested to drop off their children by 7:30 p.m. to allow for a period of relaxation before bedtime. She adds that they are then encouraged to wait until noon of the next day to return in order that the children might participate in the morning program.

"We want the night shift children to gain some nursery school experience in addition to just sleeping, she said.

The morning and afternoon programs are more creative and cognitively-oriented while in the evening the children are involved in relaxing activities such as listening to music."

So far there are a total of nine children enrolled at the Centre for the regular day shift and two at night with another scheduled to start sometime before the end of the year. The fees for all of these children are \$15.00 per day.

Ms Crawford says that an additional group of children are expected to join the Centre on a part-time basis in either a morning or afternoon nursery school program. Parents who use this service will be charged \$5.00 per day.

She goes on to note that they will also be providing a drop-in program to those parents requiring some sort of intermittent care for their children.

"This is only to be used by parents in the case of an emergency," she said, "it can't be offered on a regular basis."

Fees for this service are \$1.50 per hour and the hours of availability are 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Adolescent learning disabilities program already in demand

Although the L.T.B.O. Home was opened to adolescents with different learning abilities just a few weeks ago, already six youths are taking advantage of the services.

This is because, as the Director of the York Centre for Learning Disabilities, Alice Frey explains, in York Region there is a relative dearth of comprehensive programming for the learning disabled beyond the elementary school level.

She notes that the agency itself initiated an outpatient program - Phoenix - some two years ago to try to fill this gap but has only been able to provide limited service due to insufficient resources. In fact many of those youths who have already been connected with Phoenix in some way will be integrated into the new classes.

Ms Frey says that the overall objective of the new program is to help adolescents, experiencing academic and social difficulties as a result of a learning disorder, to better function in the community.

"The type of children I mean are those who have some problems with their learning styles and have therefore not responded that well within an academic setting. Because of this frustration, many have dropped out of school and have gotten into trouble, she said.

What we intend to do with these adolescents is use their strengths to assist them in coping with everyday life and we hope that eventually they can be reintegrated into the regular school system."

Program Supervisor, Paul Meadows, explains that one of the ways they plan to accomplish this is by involving their clients in as normalized a schedule as possible.

"Most of the youths referred will continue to live at home and will receive day treatment only as needed, he said.

In fact the hours of service will be flexible with some clients attending half-time. The rest of the day may be spent in part-time jobs or even in a regular school setting."

He says that the programming for all clients will be individualized based on assessments to identify specific areas of difficulty; socially, emotionally or academically.

All elements of the program will be conducted by a multi-disciplinary team consisting at present of a program supervisor, a family worker, two youth workers, and a special education teacher. Resources such as psychology, neurology and speech therapy will be added with further development of the service.

Mr. Meadows goes on to note that the overall treatment goals and the program plan eventually developed for the client will be basically a contractual arrangement.

"We will discuss and then agree upon general areas of functioning that should receive some attention," he said, "one thing the adolescents will learn is that they can be involved in their own planning and influence what happens to them."

Although the program is really just getting started, some of the key features include recreational and group activities, training in interpersonal skills and where feasible, other special skills, as well as an educational component provided through the Ministry of Education.

"These youths learn in different ways and what we'll be trying to do is find the method by which they learn the best," he said, "we also hope that they can become more competent in social interactions."

He adds that in an effort to treat the whole youth, the program will include a family component.

"We will be trying to deal with family needs by providing counselling should there be difficulties at home," he said, "parents will also be encouraged to get involved in discussion groups and even workshops on learning disabilities and parenting skills."

Evaluation important component of new program network

Now that the three programs are in place, work has begun to evaluate the service system at three distinct levels: the overseers (including the Ministry, the local children's services committee, the boards of the sponsoring agencies and the three program advisory committees); the programs themselves and the clients utilizing the new services.

Program Evaluator, Donna Bruce (who is working under the supervision of Thistletown's Dr. Leslie Gardner) explains that the prime area of concentration at the first level will be ongoing communication within the system while the second and third levels will involve a consideration of administration and treatment as well as the impact of the three programs on their clients.

"Every three months I will be issuing a report to the Ministry and the L.T.B.O. Board of Directors that will highlight the status of the three programs at all levels of evaluation, she said.

We consider this overview a sort of blueprint for good management."

WE GOOFED!

In the September issue, the story "New Child Abuse Publications Hot Off the Press" gave the address of the Ministry's Child Abuse Program as: 700 Bay Street, 9th Floor, Toronto. The correct address should be: 1 St. Clair Avenue West, 9th Floor, Toronto, M4V 1K6.

WATCH FOR IN OUR UPCOMING ISSUES

SPECIAL NEEDS AND SPECIAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS:

a look at three Ontario residences that are in the midst of negotiating the two agreements.

FOSTER CARE: PROPOSED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

a review of this new consultation paper.

FIELD EVALUATION OF A CHILD ADVOCACY PROCEDURE:

an analysis of the recommendations contained in this research report.

IMPLEMENTING BILL C-61: THE YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT:

an overview of this recently released discussion paper.

A FEATURE ON JEROME DIAMOND:

who recently retired as Executive Director of Metro Toronto's Jewish Child and Family Service Agency.

OUT IN THE FIELD:

a focus on the North.

* * * *

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW FORMAT?????

A number of new design changes have been introduced into the November/December issue - what do you think? If you have any additional ideas or know of a story for one of the upcoming issues, please feel free to contact:

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"SPECIAL NEEDS" OF DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN RESIDENCE NEGOTIATED IN TWO NEW AGREEMENTS

This is the second installment of a two-part series on Special Needs and Special Services Agreements. In our last issue we took an in-depth look at the basic fundamentals of the new policy including a detailed overview of the implementation process. In this edition, we examine three Ontario residences for the developmentally handicapped that are working to adopt the new procedures ...

AT HAMILTON'S RYGIEL HOME ROUTINE MUCH THE SAME DESPITE NEW AGREEMENTS

To Flora Nicholson, Administrator of the Rygiel Home in Hamilton, the introduction of the Special Needs and Special Services Agreements has not really altered their routine that much. This is because, she notes, the Home has done much work over the past several years to reach out to parents.

The Rygiel Home is a Schedule II facility, offering services to severely and profoundly retarded children and adults. Right now its clientele includes a total of 97 children - 55 in residence and 42 housed outside in the community.

A key means of promoting parental involvement and to a more general degree, "advocacy", has been the Home's Share Care Program instituted in 1977.

As she explains, this has meant that none of the admissions of the past four years have been on a full-time basis. Whether a child is placed directly in residence or in one of Rygiel's three-bed apartments, parents are expected to share with the Home responsibility for the care of their child.

"Some people need our services only one day per week - it all depends on the maximum time parents are able to take care of their child - but of the admissions in the last four years, nobody actually uses our facilities for the full seven days, she said.

The whole program is designed to allow for flexibility while ensuring that the parents stay more involved."

But Mrs. Nicholson is quick to point out that even before Share Care, in fact right from the time the Rygiel Home opened, parents have been encouraged to participate fully in facility operations.

They were given access to their child's records, encouraged to provide input into programming and invited to become members of the Home's admissions and management committees.

"One of our chief concerns has been to build up trust - there are a lot of things to work out with parents and we suffer all kinds of growing pains until trust is established, she said.

When parents start to participate in some of our activities and even work around the home as volunteers, they come to realize that they aren't being misled."

Agreements just add a formal touch to already existent advocacy measures

For a number of parents then, the new agreements are just a means of formalizing the advocacy measures already in practice.

"The Special Needs and Special Services agreements are really a contract for those parents who have maintained a continual interest and involvement," she said.

Mrs. Nicholson notes that as of February, 32 out of a possible 37 Special Needs and Special Services agreements have been signed for full-time residents (those admitted prior to Share Care). This has resulted in 25 funding requests for some kind of special service.

She adds that negotiations are now underway to adopt these more formal agreements with the Share Care parents but that procedures have been somewhat delayed by discussions on how much part-time parents should contribute towards the cost of basic care. Among the full-time agreements, the average contribution is about \$60.00 per month.

Meeting to sign agreements very informal

She explains that the actual meeting to sign the agreements is almost like an informal chat between the parents, the appropriate program coordinator, a social work person and herself.

"We take a day to identify together what we see as the strengths and needs of the child," she said, "there are just five people in the room because we don't want the whole experience to be threatening."

Some of the special services for which the Home is now requesting funding include new wheelchairs, special molded seating for wheelchairs and such communications devices as a typewriter with extra large typeset and a head pointer.

"But aside from these particular services and behaviour management, there is really very little we've identified that is not already in place, she said.

This is partly because since 1975, Schedule II facilities have been funded to provide specific staff that would recommend developmental programming."

Mrs. Nicholson notes that despite an initially negative reaction from parents not accustomed to being substantially involved in the treatment process, the overall response to the agreements has been phenomenal.

"Even the parents who were at first critical, have dealt with the whole experience very well," she said, "they have listened carefully and kept us aware of all of the potential problems."

Sara* shows amazing improvement with special services

One agreement that was negotiated last July and is already proving to be a resounding success is special services for Sara.*

Sixteen year-old Sara suffers from cortical blindness, decreased tactile perception, poor muscle control and cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair with her right leg amputated above the knee. All of these disorders are the result of an accident.

In Sara's Special Services Agreement it was noted that she particularly needed services that would help enhance her sense of self-esteem and develop her social and academic skills.

At the same time it was recognized that because Sara is blind and confined to a wheelchair she would require consultation from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, as well as special seating to maintain an upright position and the assistance of two people for all transfers and toileting procedures.

Last September Sara was placed in a regular classroom within the Hamilton district separate school system. She was assigned to a grade seven-eight academic level in order to be with her own peer group although she receives academic training at other grade levels, whenever necessary.

Mrs. Nicholson says that over the past few months Sara has acquired a phenomenal amount of confidence. She goes on to quote a recent evaluation from Sara's teacher:

"Sara is doing magnificently. The program has to change each week to keep up with her changing needs and progress. And the adjustments we saw as negative in the beginning have turned out to be quite positive for the normal children."

SCARBOROUGH'S DALE RESIDENCE LAUNCHED WITH PRE-PLANNED SUPPORTS

Dale Residence in Scarborough opened just a little over a year ago to offer care in the community to the developmentally handicapped and was launched with a planned support system that has included parental involvement right from the start.

It should be noted that MTAMR, the association that administers the residence, is awaiting funds from the Ministry to complete the resource staff necessary for these residential services.

This means, as House Mother Elaine Bell explains, that many of the provisions that might normally be part of Special Service requests have already been or will be included in the Dale program.

"We have been providing so many services and most of the kids have done remarkably well that many parents actually felt strange negotiating the agreements," she said.

Community residence has room for six

Dale Residence houses a total of six children ranging in age from 12 to 17 years and in level of functioning from severe to high moderate retardation. All of the residents have various other disorders including seizure activity and physical handicaps.

A key feature of the community residence is maximum development and children who come to live at Dale learn very quickly that they have certain responsibilities: in particular to take care of their own hygiene and to participate in household chores.

All of the residents attend classes each day - depending on their specific needs, either a school for the trainably retarded, a special education class or vocational high school. In their spare time the children are involved in individualized recreational programs such as roller skating, canoeing and swimming.

At Dale, implementation of agreements a three-staged process

Grace McFarlane, the Assistant Director of Services for Children, MTAMR explains that the process to develop the agreements for the Dale clients has involved three major components: staff training on the new policy, informal assessments of the children and then actual case conferences with the parents.

"Once they were trained the Dale counsellors carried out a series of assessments to determine the children's strengths and needs, she said.

These were then presented to the parents in meetings or case conferences arranged by MTAMR's Program Supervisors and including all people and/or agencies involved with the children."

To date, Special Service funds have been requested for specific contract staff and recreational programs. As the assessment process is refined, however, further applications for special services will be submitted.

Parents somewhat wary of decreased fee structure

Now that all of the Dale Special Needs and Special Services Agreements are signed, the parents are contributing an average of \$80 per month towards the cost of care compared to a previous monthly sum of \$265.

It is interesting, as Ms Bell notes, that the initial reaction from many of the parents to this decreased fee structure was somewhat mixed.

"Some thought it was an insult and others were quite leery," she said, "no one actually said, hey this is great."

She adds that the staff now report just how much increased co-operation they have been receiving from the parents.

"The decrease in fees has allowed the parents to provide more clothes for their children and money for amenities such as hairstyling," she said.

AT HURONIA REGIONAL CENTRE NEW AGREEMENTS MEAN A FRANTIC SHIFT IN ACTIVITY

When the Special Needs and Special Services Agreements were first introduced throughout Ontario, Huronia Regional Centre was required to drastically shift gears in order to implement a complex program in a short period of time.

Huronia Regional Centre, a Schedule I facility, handles a range of problems including developmental handicaps, chronic medical conditions, physical and sensory handicaps and even emotional or behavioural problems.

As one of the largest institutions in the province, Huronia has a total of 965 residents (79 of which are still classified as under 18) as well as almost the same number of staff members. And because the facility has such a large capacity, many of its residents, including the children, come from many parts of Ontario.

This has meant a fair amount of travel and a number of contacts to reach many of the parents and a series of orientation sessions to train all staff members that would actually be involved in negotiating the new agreements.

As of February, however, Joe Fecht, Huronia's Manager of Social Work Services, notes that out of a possible 79 cases, 60 of the Special Services Agreements have been signed. This has resulted, so far, in nine individual requests for special services funding as well as two group submissions.

He adds that almost all meetings to develop the Special Service agreements have now been held, but that the remaining agreements are as yet unsigned because the parents concerned were unable to attend these cases conferences.

New policy introduced through meetings and in-home visits

The process to familiarize Huronia parents with the new policy and introduce the Special Needs Agreement involved a series of meetings in various regions of the province and later in-home visits for those who did not attend the sessions. These initial contacts were all undertaken by the Special Projects Officer assigned specifically to the facility, Kathy Barker.

Wherever possible, the Special Services Agreements were negotiated within 90 days of the signing of the Special Needs document.

Mr. Fecht explains that the format of the actual meetings to develop the agreements has really depended on the situation - in some cases a preliminary meeting or program planning session was held between the parents and four or five members of the Huronia staff while in others the parents attended only a full-scale case conference with as many as 10 or 12 staff members.

This meeting a full-scale case conference ...

A visit to Huronia Regional Centre one day early last November proved to be even more beneficial than imagined for on this particular afternoon a case conference was held to negotiate special services for Tim Green.*

Tim is a 14-year old severely handicapped epileptic who at the time had just been placed in the facility's new "total communication" program and was also learning to dress himself and tie his shoes.

Present at the session were Mr. and Mrs. Green as well as eight members of the facility staff directly involved with Tim: his frontline counsellor, the ward supervisor, the teacher, the speech therapist, occupational therapist, residential health nurse, social worker and psychologist. The conference was chaired by the Service Director of Tim's residence.

During the first part of the 90-minute meeting Mr. and Mrs. Green were presented with the results of a complete series of assessments on their son by each of the staff members in attendance and were then requested to help rate Tim's performance in terms of communication skills and sensory abilities.

A discussion of short-term and longer-term program objectives for Tim followed in which the Greens were asked to voice concerns and recommend any special needs that they felt should be included in Tim's program for the coming year.

It was agreed, for example, that the total communication and shoe-tying instruction should be continued and even expanded to include work when Tim visits home.

Once the various components of Tim's program were worked out, the session was ended with Mr. and Mrs. Green noting their desire to further consider these provisions before agreeing to sign both the Special Needs and Special Services documents.

Facility submits both individual and group requests for special services funding

Now that the majority of the Special Services agreements have been signed, Mr. Fecht reports that the facility has submitted individual requests totaling \$41,500 for services such as extra staffing and two group applications: one totalling \$79,500 to invest in sensory stimulation equipment and staffing and another for \$52,700 to develop play and music therapy programs.

He goes on to note that the overall response from the parents to the new agreements has been quite positive.

"Despite the fact that it has been hard to get a decision from a small number of parents, most wanted to make a contribution and many have expressed an interest in participating in planning for their child," he said.

He adds that although prior to the new agreements, Huronia had been encouraging parents to become more active in facility operations and program planning, he welcomes

* The names of the Special Service clients portrayed in this article have been changed to maintain confidentiality.

the more formal aspect of the Special Needs and Special Services policy.

"These documents give the facility an opportunity to identify exactly what is being done and allows the parents to remain very informed of the key actors and what they are doing, he said.

When two parties are negotiating an issue and it is written down in the form of a contract, it becomes not just a matter of leaving a child to the facility's devices but encouraging parents to be directly part of the programming."

PROPOSED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES DEMONSTRATE MINISTRY COMMITMENT TO QUALITY FOSTER CARE

A proposed set of Ministry standards and guidelines designed to ensure an ongoing commitment to quality foster care in Ontario and promote the movement away from institutional placement for children is now being released by the Ministry for public consultation.

As the principle author of the paper, Mary Thelander explains, "Foster Care: Proposed Standards and Guidelines for Agencies Placing Children" offers the first comprehensive examination of foster care procedures and practices by those experienced in providing the service.

She notes that prior to the release of the paper, there were various checks and balances for monitoring foster care including the Child Welfare Act, the Ministry's Child Welfare Branch and Probation and Aftercare manuals. But the release of the standards paper, "Children's Residential Facilities", emphasized the need for a separate and distinct guide.

"The standards provide a logical sequencing of the type of practices that should be in place to ensure that children receive quality care," she said, "up to now there have not been such uniform standards."

Foster parents provide a stable living environment

Ms Thelander describes foster care as a service that offers children a stable family environment within which to live for a planned period of time.

She explains that children are placed in care for a host of reasons which include external pressures that may force a family apart until it is better able to cope or the child's own behavioural problems that the natural family may be finding difficult to control.

She says that depending upon the motives for placement and a particular plan of care, a child may remain with a foster family for a few weeks, months or until he or she reaches the age of majority.

However she goes on to note that many children today tend not to remain in care for extended periods of time.

As she emphasizes, this has meant a much changed role for foster parents. They now want to be involved with agencies in foster care planning, to be provided with education or training as well as support and to receive some sort of financial compensation.

"Today children are staying in care for much shorter periods of time which means that foster parents invest in a child emotionally only to find that he or she is not going to grow up with the family, she said.

This has created new expectations - it has led such parents to seek to be involved in planning for their foster children and to request some sort of rate to cover the costs of caring for a child."

Standards paper looks at foster care as an entire process

To reflect these changes, Ms Thelander explains that the paper takes a very broad view of foster care, detailing a total process, not just a placement.

"We consider the needs of the child in a foster placement as well as the natural family situation before the child enters care with special emphasis on the problems associated with separation, she said.

In other words, the paper proposes adequate assessment of both families and children requiring care and emphasizes the need for planning before, during and after care."

This systems view of foster care is highlighted in three distinct sections of the paper - Foster Care Practices: The Child and Natural Family, Foster Care Practices: The Foster Home and from the agency perspective, Management of Foster Care Service.

The "Child and Natural Family" section provide a logical sequencing of the service delivery process by including standards and guidelines pertaining to screening, assessment and admission of a child into care, the three different types of foster care (regular, supplementary and special), foster care review termination, aftercare and information collection.

The second major portion of the paper details the foster home selection process, orientation of new foster parents, service agreements between parents and the agency, support services for the family, reviews of all foster care homes, complaint and grievance procedures and the maintenance of foster family files.

The final section presents an overview of the role of the agency in the provision of foster care by examining such concerns as the competencies of foster care staff, supervision of the foster care worker, worker orientation, training and staff development and the need for sound data collection.

Two other key issues addressed in the paper include the rights of foster parents, ensured through the introduction of service agreements and grievance procedures, as well as the involvement of the natural family in the entire foster care process to support the expectation that the child will return, whenever possible, to his or her natural parents.

Paper takes two years to complete

Ms Thelander notes that the process to develop the proposed standards was quite lengthy, involving some two years and several drafts before the paper was ready for distribution.

She emphasizes, however, that throughout this entire period care was taken to maintain close contact with a range of interested professionals.

A central coordinating committee participated in the actual drafting of the document while two working groups or subcommittees - one in Toronto and another in northern Ontario - reviewed the paper.

"We tried very hard to consult at length with professionals in the field before, during and after the whole developmental process, she said.

This was to ensure that what we were proposing was feasible and practical and reflected what practitioners felt would promote quality care."

The paper has been released in phases since early last fall, first to the Ministry's area offices, then to the agencies currently providing foster care and now most recently to public interest groups, associations and universities.

Ms Thelander explains that the primary reason for the staged distribution is to give service providers an opportunity to read, absorb and react to the paper before engaging with the public in full consultation.

In fact she notes that four regional foster care coordinators are currently meeting with service providers to orient them to the proposed standards, record their responses and plan a process for implementing the foster care practices.

"In this way we are able to work with provider agencies to improve foster care practices and not wait until the end of the consultation period," she said.

She notes that public consultation will be launched in May at the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies annual meeting and is scheduled to run until May, 1983. In the interim, Betty Lou Lynn, the public consultation Project Leader will be conducting meetings with interest groups and associations throughout the province.

Once the consultation process is completed, Ms Thelander says that the responses to the paper will be reviewed and final standards developed, with some written into regulations under The Children's Residential Services Act, 1978.

"The goal in standards development is to reach a consensus on what is quality care and service and the regulations affirm that understanding," she said.

Copies of the paper in both French and English can be obtained by contacting:

Program Information
Ministry of Community and
Social Services
Hepburn Block, 6th Floor
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1E9

An English summary of the full document and a response booklet are also available. Foster parents and placement agency staff should direct requests for copies to the foster care coordinator in their region. The general public should direct their requests to:

The Foster Care Coordination Project
Ministry of Community and Social Services
700 Bay Street, 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario.

ONTARIO CONSULTATION PAPER DISCUSSES IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

A paper which outlines issues and policies pertaining to the provincial implementation of the new Young Offenders Act was recently released for public consultation.

The discussion paper was prepared by an inter-ministerial task group led by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and has been issued to provide current information on the direction Ontario proposes or intends to take in the introduction of changes associated with the new Act.

The Young Offenders Bill (C-61) replaces the outmoded Juvenile Delinquents Act to reflect present practices and attitudes about young people.

The new Act blends three principles: that young people should be held more responsible for their behaviour but not wholly accountable, that society has a right to protection and that young people have the same rights to due process of law and fair and equal treatment as adults.

Policy paper has two major thrusts

As the coordinator of the implementation project, Doug McConney explains, the Ontario consultation paper has two major thrusts: an outline of the ways in which the new federal legislation might be implemented within this province and a discussion of approaches for dealing with the three policy areas not covered by the Act -- offences by children under 12, provincial and municipal offences and truancy.

The first section deals with such considerations as maximum age, the designation of Provincial Director, legal representation for young persons charged with an offence, alternative measures or "diversion programs", the provision of both custody and non-custody dispositions and procedures for reviewing all dispositions.

The latter area of concentration where the changes are more complex - excluded ages and offences - presents alternative approaches rather than predetermined preferences.

This section of the paper begins by proposing two alternatives for dealing with offences by children under 12: a provincial "Child Offender Act" which would draw on some of the non-custodial dispositions of the Young Offenders Act or a new provision, "the child in need of supervision", within current child welfare legislation.

The paper goes on to discuss the treatment of provincial offences, proposing three options: application of the Young Offenders Act, utilization of procedures under the existing Provincial Offences Act or the development of a process which incorporates elements of both acts.

Given these three alternatives, a number of issues are considered including initiation of proceedings, notice to parents, pre-trial release and detention, the court and sentencing, failure to pay fines, review of dispositions and legal representation.

The final major area of concern, truancy, is viewed alternatively as an offence, a provision under child welfare legislation or as an educational matter dealt with entirely by the school system.

The paper also takes a brief look at the financial implications of the Young Offenders Act from federal, municipal and even parental perspectives and ends by noting the impact of the new Bill on the workload of children's aid societies.

Alternatives for areas not covered by new Act now under closer consideration

Mr. McConney notes that the alternatives proposed for the three major policy areas not covered under the new Act are now being examined in further detail, with this Ministry responsible for children under 12, the Attorney General for provincial offences and the Ministry of Education assigned the issue of truancy.

He says that once the consultation responses are considered and the final proposals developed, the policies will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

He adds that the timing of this process will depend on how quickly the federal Bill is enacted.

"If the Young Offenders Act is passed as scheduled this Spring, the province will be making these policy decisions very soon after that," he said.

CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM NEWLY RESTRUCTURED

A restructuring of the Ministry of Community and Social Services Child Abuse Program assigned to the 12 area offices direct responsibility for local child abuse activities effective January 1, 1982.

These new responsibilities include the promotion of professional training and agency interprofessional collaboration and through local agencies, the development of plans for prevention programs.

At the same time a central Child Abuse Unit continues to operate under the direction of Dr. Herb Sohn within the Policy Services and Program Evaluation Branch to recommend policy, programming and legislative initiatives, co-ordinate interministerial activity, public education and the development of professional training materials in addition to providing consultation to the area program staff.

The Research and Program Evaluation Unit of the Policy Services and Program Evaluation Branch has taken up responsibility for administering all child abuse research and demonstration activities, in consultation with the Child Abuse Unit.

A FOCUS ON THE NORTH

**GRASSY NARROWS
 INTERVENTION TEAM FIGHTS TO
 REDUCE ON-RESERVE CRISES**

A little over a year ago Grassy Narrows Indian Reserve, 100 kilometres north of Kenora, was experiencing a disproportionate number of social problems largely due to a higher than average degree of solvent sniffing and alcoholism.

In a fall 1980 study, social agencies servicing the Grassy Narrows community noted that at least 65 youths under the age of 20 were involved in sniffing and 350 people or over 50 per cent of the reserve population was in need of alcohol counselling.

Some 15 violent deaths had occurred on the reserve during the two years prior to the report and it was estimated that the number of attempted suicides had reached 40 per year.

Today there is a marked decline in gas sniffing, drinking and breaches of curfew and even more importantly, the many serious incidents associated with these abuses.

In fact a recently completed Ministry analysis of the Grassy Narrows situation indicates that over the past year there has been a 57 per cent decline in violent deaths, a 65 per cent reduction in attempted suicides and an 88 per cent drop in the delinquency rate.

These amazing statistics are largely the result of an on-reserve program of "crisis intervention" initiated and implemented in December, 1980 by the Grassy Narrows community itself.

Among the key actors in the development of the new service have been the reserve's Probation and Aftercare Officer, Steve Fobister, Band Councillor, Fred Land and the Ministry's Supervisor of Probation and Aftercare for the Kenora district, Chester Draper.

Some \$12,000 in funding was obtained through probation services for the first five months or the demonstration portion of the new project with an additional 10-month grant (which up to the end of January, 1982 amounted to a total of \$35,000) provided through a Ministry child welfare allotment.

**Program sets out to eliminate
 violent deaths while increasing
 community involvement**

Mr. Fobister notes that from its inception, the overall objective of the crisis intervention project was to not only reduce the number of violent deaths on the reserve caused by suicide or delinquency but to increase the involvement of parents with their children in general and in the solution of these multiple social problems.

"What we have been trying to do is make the community become more aware of its own problems and how to deal with them," he said.

He says that the basic feature of the program is a team of three crisis intervention workers who are responsible each night for patrolling the reserve and staffing a "crisis house" to respond to phone calls and drop-in visits.

Patrol a type of mini-police

He explains that as a patrol the team has fulfilled a sort of policing function by conducting searches for young prowlers in all areas of the reserve and by maintaining almost daily contact with children identified as chronic troublemakers or solvent sniffers.

"We check around buildings that could be the target of vandalism and just make the kids aware that we are around," he said, "but we're really here to respond to any crisis - critical things such as kids out sniffing and getting into trouble."

Depending on the state of the children they do find, he says the team will either escort them to the crisis house or directly home, contact the police or send the children to hospital.

"We know we can always call the police if something comes up that the crisis team can't handle, he said.

The O.P.P. has been quite cooperative, although at first they kept a rather careful eye on us because they thought that we were overstepping our responsibilities."

In fact he says that the crisis team relied quite heavily on the police in the early months of the patrol service because some reserve members reacted quite negatively and in certain cases violently to this new form of intervention.

"Although a large majority of the people really appreciated the program because they wanted the community to progress, some just didn't recognize what the team was out there for, he said.

So in the beginning there was quite a vocal group against us - gangs were organized and many of them threatened us - but because we had the support of the chief in Council, we were prepared to tolerate the abuses."

Crisis worker meets with gang to try to gain their support

To try to dispel some of the hostilities, the crisis prevention workers eventually arranged a meeting with the leaders of the gang, inviting them to become part of crisis program.

"We asked them why they were causing trouble and they didn't seem to be very sure themselves but I guess what it came down to was a personal grudge, he said.

So we told them if that's the way they feel then why don't they join us on the patrol for two or three nights to see the way things really are."

He adds that once the gang members agreed to come along, it didn't take most of them very long to realize what the team was trying to do.

"After that many ways changed - in fact one of the biggest offenders even became part of the crisis team," he said, "and he has been a great help because we have utilized his experiences - he knew where the problems were."

Team now accepted throughout community

Mr. Fobister notes that within the community today there appears to be an overall acceptance of the program. One measure of the team's influence is that over the past few months attention has shifted from the patrol to the "crisis house" or drop-in centre.

Now the team spends an average night responding to phone calls or to drop-in visits from lonely, scared or depressed children, especially those who feel like outcasts because their parents are intoxicated.

"These kids are usually between 10 and 16 years old and although they never actually say that they want to commit suicide, they suggest that they will do something unless their situation is resolved," he said, "we know that from their sadness or lack of esteem."

He says that the team always tries to keep these callers talking for as long as is necessary.

"By talking over their problems with them, we make sure everything is going to be okay before we release them," he said, "and you know the kids respond because all of a sudden they feel important."

He adds that a follow-up is done on each contact and all cases are brought to the attention of the appropriate on-reserve resource person - the child welfare worker, the Alcohol Counsellor or the Health Care Worker.

Program has helped promote community involvement

Mr. Fobister says that another positive effect of the crisis intervention is the degree to which reserve members are now becoming involved in community matters.

"Compared to the way it was the year before the program, people are starting to feel more pride in the community, he said.

People are looking, asking and doing. They realize that cooperation between community members is the only way to solve our internal problems."

One indication of this increased involvement is the number of committees that have recently been formed to deal with particular interests or areas of concern.

The first organized was a committee to administer the crisis intervention program. Its members represent all of the community's major helping services: the Band Social Councillor, Band Health Aide, Band Alcohol Councillor, Probation and Aftercare Officer and the Resident Children's Aid Worker.

Now, as Mr. Fobister notes, committees are organized for most new projects.

"Usually when the community has an interest in a particular avenue or recognizes that some important service is missing, a committee is formed. For instance, we have new recreation, child welfare and education committees, he said.

These groups have formed a very strong lobby to ensure that the reserve community will enjoy a proper variety of activities."

A current project of the recreation group is the implementation of a social/cultural program for all reserve members. A request for funding has been submitted to the Ministry of Culture and Recreation's Native Branch and it is expected that a social convenor will be in place by the beginning of April.

Crisis team helps lend credence to other on-reserve services

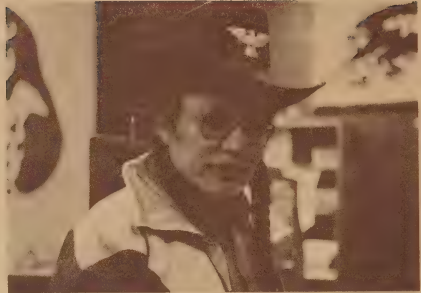
Mr. Draper is quick to point out that although the crisis intervention service has helped produce a greater volume of interested people, it is not working in isolation.

"One of the greatest contributions of the program is that it calmed everyone so that the reserve's service providers could have more effect," he said.

He adds that because the crisis team members have had so much success "calming the waters" they are slowly working themselves out of a job.

"The idea of the program was to generate community involvement and encourage agencies to cooperate, he said.

Well, serious occurrences are down, there is no sniffing, delinquencies are almost non-existent and people are working together - so it won't be very long before the crisis team can be dissolved."



Ne-Chee Friendship Centre
Director, Joe Morrison

KENORA NATIVE CENTRE OFFERS SOCIAL SUPPORT AND PLENTY OF FRIENDSHIP

The Ne-Chee Friendship Centre in Kenora is a sort of "one-stop shopping spot" that offers area native families a number of helping resources and even a "friendly ear".

As Ne-Chee's Director, Joe Morrison notes, the Centre was first established in 1976 to provide native-oriented cultural and social programming as well as moral support and assistance to people in trouble.

"If people want to just come in and talk to somebody, our staff has the understanding," he said, "even with all of our program activities we operate a fairly easy structure."

Today the Centre has a total operating budget of \$1/2 million, some five social programs and a staff of 16. Funding for the programs comes from a variety of sources with two - the Kenora Street Patrol and Little Beavers - supported entirely by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. (This amounted to \$100,000 in total for 1981-82)

Mr. Morrison explains that the Little Beavers program is geared to both native and non-native children living in rural communities and is designed to familiarize its participants with the native cultural background as one means of maintaining a distinct heritage.

Little Beavers meets three times per week with the children involved in a range of activities from cooking, beading, snow-shoeing and swimming to attending various powwows and cultural festivals.

The Kenora Foot Patrol is a preventative service initiated to reduce unnecessary deaths and in-street violence due to alcoholism (see next story for full details).

The Centre's three remaining programs are all associated with the court.

Two Ne-Chee courtworkers are available in court whenever necessary to act as translators, talk to officials and to provide moral support and some legal counselling.

A Community Service Order Coordinator is responsible for recommending and implementing community service dispositions to replace the normal jail sentence for those adults charged under the Provincial Offences Act and in certain cases, the Criminal Code.

A Native Inmate Liaison person works with inmates and their families to arrange temporary absence permits, develop pre-sentence and pre-release reports and to help organize suitable employment for the offenders following their release.

Ne-Chee staff trained at "School of Hard Knocks"

It is interesting to note that none of the staff of the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre have degrees of any kind. Instead, as Mr. Morrison emphasizes, they have all gone through the "University of Hard Knocks".

"Most of the people who work here have no higher than a Grade ten education - in fact I only went as far as Grade nine, he said.

But we've all experienced many of the same problems we deal with every day - in other words we're all very streetwise."

KENORA PATROL HELPS REDUCE VIOLENCE AND DEATH BY KEEPING ALCOHOL PROBLEMS "OFF THE STREETS"

There is a program in Kenora that is working to keep people with alcohol problems off the streets and helping to avoid deaths due to exposure, drowning and in-street violence.

The service - really the first of its kind in Canada developed and operated entirely by local natives - is called the "Kenora Street Patrol" and operates out of the city's Ne-Chee Friendship Centre.

The patrol was first launched as a pilot project in the spring of 1975 and continued over the winters of 1975, 1976 and 1977; but was eventually expanded to twelve months in 1978 with the receipt of a three-year \$55,000 per year funding contract from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This contract was just recently renewed for an additional three years or \$78,000 yearly.

As the Director of the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, Joe Morrison explains, the patrol team does not have any real legal authority but is available to fulfill a helping function.

"A study done before the service began showed that one local native person was dying per week by other than violent means while others were being severely injured through beatings, he said.

What the foot patrol has been trying to do is save those under the influence from losing their lives and by protecting these people, help to decrease street violence."

He notes that the program is now starting to make many families aware of some of the ways of dealing with alcoholism.

"The people are now becoming more knowledgeable about alcohol programs and services that are available in this area," he said.

He adds that lately he has also been receiving requests for assistance from other communities interested in introducing a similar type of service.

"For example a patrol program is about to start in Thompson, Manitoba and they have asked if we'd be interested in exchanging staff," he said, "they want our team to visit them and they would like to come down and observe what we are doing."

Patrol team "on duty" seven nights a week

The five-member Kenora Street Patrol operates seven nights per week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. One shift of two workers is on duty from Sunday to Wednesday with two shifts scheduled on the "busier" nights - Thursday to Saturday.

Team leader Alex Skead says that on an average night the patrol will manage to complete three or four rounds of the downtown core area which includes the waterfront, the Holiday Inn, the Kenora Recreation Centre, the Shopper's Mall and plenty of back alleys.

He explains that if the workers find intoxicated people lying in the vicinity of any of these locations, the usual process is to escort them either to the detox centre or to the Ne-Chee Headquarters to try to arrange their transportation home.

Should it be necessary, the patrol will also refer people to the hospital, the police or even the local Children's Aid Society.

Mr. Skead notes the special working relationship that has evolved between his team and the local police.

"Although we are not actually involved in any law enforcement we do keep in very close contact with the police," he said, "in fact they have expressed their strong appreciation for the work of the patrol."

Native control contributes to success of project

Mr. Morrison emphasizes that one reason for the ongoing success of the project is that it is operated by native people who have all had similar problems with alcoholism and have therefore an understanding of the street subculture.

"The workers can better relate to such people, especially those who feel intimidated by authority, he said.

And because many of the team members have been picked up off the street themselves at some point, they know the locations where these people would want to go to sleep."

Once such person is Alice Littledeer who was taken from the street and referred to a counselling program in July, 1980 and who has managed to resist alcohol ever since.

Her motives for joining the Street Patrol are quite simple: she wanted to pass on to others her experiences with "rehabilitation".

"I am trying to help others because I know what they're going through," she said, "at first some don't like to see me but they always thank me later on."

She notes that the number of chronic abusers seem to have diminished since she first started with the team in August, 1980.

"People are behaving much better because lately we've found practically nobody lying around," she said, "many are now into programs with their own alcohol counsellors and so I think people are getting better in their heads."



The Kenora Street Patrol

THIS SUDBURY-ALGOMA HOSPITAL UNIT PROVIDES TREATMENT STRICTLY IN FRENCH

A new unit at the Sudbury-Algoma Hospital will allow Francophone children and their families from the district of Sudbury to receive consultation and treatment in their own language.

The francophone service, officially titled the "Service Francophone d'Intervention Psychosociale" has received an ongoing Ministry grant of \$125,000 as part of a total funding allocation of \$400,000 to nine northern agencies in an effort to improve services to Francophone families with special needs.

The unit has treated some 61 cases on an out-patient basis since it opened for business on October 15, 1981. The actual treatment team consists of five professionals - two part-time psychologists, a clinician, a social worker and the unit's director and psychotherapist, Pierre Girouard.

As Mr. Girouard explains, the new service is prepared to handle any problems associated with psychosocial or growth maladjustment.

He is quick to emphasize that the unit has been implemented as a separate service in the hospital (similar to the social work or mental health departments) to respect the uniqueness of both the French culture and language.

"It is not enough to treat people in their own language; as health care professionals we must be able to recognize the distinct qualities of the French and English cultures, he said.

The greatest danger is trying to help when service providers don't understand what their clients mean - in other words the clients may be misread because of certain basic cultural differences."

Program designed to be flexible

One of the key features of the new service, Mr. Girouard notes, is its flexibility.

He explains that the unit makes every effort to respond and adapt to the needs of their clients even if this means meeting the children on their own "turf".

"We attempt to keep an open structure - when somebody requests help, we try to provide it, he said.

But our philosophy is to relate to our clients in whatever manner they are most comfortable and generally people feel much more secure receiving a professional in their own milieu."

For this reason the unit has adopted the practice of working in the schools and where necessary, going directly into the families.

The school program consists of weekly half-day visits to each of Sudbury's four Francophone secondary schools to provide training and consultation and to receive specific referrals (referrals also come from the Children's Aid Society, the Sudbury-Algoma Hospital, various psychiatrists and physicians and even parents).

"We train guidance teachers on how to undertake basic assessments so that through these instructors, our program is able to provide more support," he said.

But should a particular child need more help, his team is prepared to intervene.

"We don't automatically diagnose or label kids," he said, "however if a school indicates that more help is required, then we will provide further assessment to better understand the psychodynamics of the child."

Treatment process teaches clients how to help themselves

He notes that the unit's approach to treatment is to not actually offer any clearcut remedies but to help their clients better recognize their problems and eventually acquire an understanding of how to cure themselves.

As Mr. Girouard elaborates, this is perhaps another reason for the in-home visits.

"When we go into the families we often work to organize the life of the family by for instance assisting parents to organize their leisure activities, he said.

By including the global system in our interventions, we are trying to teach families how to adopt certain behaviours that will help resolve their child's difficulties."

He is quick to emphasize that no limit is put on the treatment process.

"If our clients are in need of aftercare, then they should still be part of a treatment program," he said, "until they are able to use their own devices to deal with their problems, they can feel secure that they'll have the necessary supports."

Education another element of unit's new services

As part of their mandate, Mr. Girouard notes that the intervention service is also working to develop an educational component for interested members of the Francophone community.

This has been implemented so far in the form of monthly luncheon conferences at Laurentian University as well as various workshops and clinical presentations.

The luncheon meetings, which were launched last September, include discussions by various professionals of such topics as the psychodynamic approach, drawings of children, mental retardation, clinical teamwork, learning disabilities and the notion of the family through history.

He adds that an international symposium, "Maladjusted: the child and/or the professional?" is planned for April 5, 6 and 7 at Sudbury's Sheraton Caswell Inn. It will feature guest speakers from as far as Hawaii and offer bilingual workshops on psychiatric, psychological and educational topics related to maladjustment.

******* FORMAL CEREMONY OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW UNIT *******

A ceremony to officially open the "Service Francophone d'Intervention Psychosociale" of the Sudbury Algoma Hospital was held on Wednesday evening, January 12, at Sudbury's Sheraton Caswell Inn.

In attendance from the Ministry were Regional Director for the North, Val Gibbons, the Ministry's French Language Services Coordinator, Abbie Lavigne Allan, Northern Francophone Coordinator, Rejean Nadeau and Sudbury Program Supervisor, Andre Clement.

The keynote address was given by Mr. Don Stevenson, Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Government Coordinator of French Services.



Back row (from l. to r.)

Front row (from l. to r.)

Valerie Gibbons, Don Stevenson, Andre Clement, Pierre Girouard, Abbie Lavigne Allan Ruth MacMillan, Executive Director of the Sudbury-Algoma Hospital; Mitchell Speigel, Chairman of the Hospital's Board of Directors.

JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE DIRECTOR, JEROME DIAMOND, RETIRES

When Jerome Diamond retired from Jewish Family and Child Service last October, his staff presented him with a custom-made wall mural inscribed, "through compassion he served his brothers."

A fitting gesture for a man whose work to shape a total approach to child care during his 22 years as Executive Director of the agency has been described as an "era of professionalism".

His answer to the problem child was in most situations, to provide support to the family system.

"What we tried to do was build a generic approach because even when children were separated from their families, most of their problems seemed to resolve around this network" he said.

This focus on the family was given precedence from the very start of Mr. Diamond's JF and CS career with his massive effort in 1960 to reshape the agency's approach to the treatment of family stress from one of financial assistance or income maintenance to family counselling.

"We did retain some dimension of subsidization in the form of family benefits and financial support for old people," he said.

"But we were primarily involved in reclarifying the agency's direction with our Board and a tremendous amount of staff training to establish a qualified family counselling service."

He says that one of his first priorities during this restructuring was to amalgamate services for children and families, while continuing to maintain a distinct focus on children.

"Before this change, children were separated from family services and in order to be treated as part of a family, a child had to first be discharged from a children's program, he said.

But I should mention that because our children's services function was receiving rather short shrift in terms of funding, we took a hard look at our capabilities and initially considered turning the children's programs over to the Metro Toronto Children's Aid Society."

This never happened, but as Mr. Diamond notes, for many years maintaining a solid children's support function was a tough struggle.

"We had full responsibility for the care of Jewish CAS wards or foster children but did not have legal children's aid status, he said.

This meant that when we wanted to place a child in a treatment institution we had to raise funds in the Jewish community instead of relying on public assistance."

He explains that by 1971, the JF and CS caseload had sufficiently expanded to allow the agency to obtain government financial support.

Mr. Diamond's concerns were completely resolved in September, 1980 when the agency was granted legal children's aid status.

Turmoil of 60's and 70's challenges JF and CS treatment approach

The turbulence experienced by many families throughout the '60s and '70s posed some rather severe challenges for the new JF and CS family approach to child care.

Mr. Diamond explains that the insurgence of the drug trade of the 1960's and the increasing divorce rate of the 1970's resulted in quite a widespread dismantlement of the family network.

"Around the mid 1960's we were focusing much of our attention on the families of 12 to 17 year-old runaways involved in prostitution and assorted crimes connected with the drug trade, he said.

By 1970, with the onset of family law reform and the emergence of a new leadership role for women, we were dealing more with single parent families on post-divorce management.

To try to keep in touch with those adolescents living "on the streets" and even an increasing number of unwed mothers, he says that the agency developed a youth co-op residential and counselling program in 1968.

As their treatment base widened to include emotional and perceptual problems as well as post-divorce management, the JF and CS opened Centre Shelanu in 1974 to provide mental health services on both a residential and out-patient basis.

(Today, only Centre Shelanu remains in operation, serving up to six children in residence and some 50 others living either with their families or in foster homes).

As Mr. Diamond emphasizes, whether residential or non-residential, all of their programs have included a strong family component with a special emphasis on family life education.

"We felt that it didn't make sense to just physically separate children from their families - if we were going to help these kids, we had to provide massive family therapy, he said.

In our Centre Shelanu residential program, for instance, we work with the child separately while at the same time concentrating on the resocialization of the family - once both of these components are treated, then the child is ready to return to the family."

He goes on to note the agency's family approach to post-divorce management.

"Our concern has always been to give families the skills to restructure and to negotiate their relationships, he said.

This means working with the whole family - not just a fragment - including, particularly in multiparent situations, the grandparents."

Over 22 years agency enjoys quite an expansion in service

Mr. Diamond is especially proud of how much the agency expanded its services during his 22 years as Executive Director.

In 1959, JF and CS consisted of 19 professionals. Today a full-time staff of 40 is located directly at the agency with 18 child care workers providing special education and mental health services at Centre Shelanu.

He also notes that the number of Jewish foster homes has increased from nine to 32, with 28 currently in full use.

Now that he has had some time to look back at his years at JF and CS, he says that he would like most to be remembered for his thorough but practical approach to therapy.

It will be a long time before the social services community forgets Jerome Diamond.

WATCH FOR IN OUR UPCOMING ISSUES ...

A SPECIAL FEATURE ON JUDGE GEORGE THOMSON: who is leaving the Ministry at the end of March.

OUT IN THE FIELD:

A focus on Southwestern Region

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS commenting on the new format" Remember, story ideas are always welcome and can be addressed to:

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DEPARTURE OF JUDGE THOMSON SIGNALS END OF "ERA"

When Judge George Thomson left the government on March 31 after five years as the Associate Deputy Minister of Children's Services and more recently, Children's and Adult's Policy and Program Development, it was agreed that this Ministry had witnessed the "end of an era".

An era that included an aggressive and dynamic yet "human" approach to growth and change unmatched by many policymakers.

And at a March 23 farewell reception, he was lauded by his many colleagues for the "imprint" he made in the field of children's services.

During a recent interview, Judge Thomson had the opportunity to reflect back on his five years as the Ministry's "voice" for children and to talk at length about his endeavours and accomplishments.

He says that basically he agreed to help launch the Ministry's new Children's Services Division in 1977 in response to a request from Keith Norton who "spoke for many of the same principles" and because after five years as a family court judge, "the timing was right".

However, he emphasizes that he took up these responsibilities with a number of objectives which had evolved from problems and issues observed in his work "on the bench".

He lists what were some of the more obvious deficiencies, as a lack of coordination in services, an emphasis on the "back end" of the system rather than prevention, insufficient standards for service and essentially no clear policy or common goals for kids.

"I felt that it would be exciting to come and try to remedy some of these problems," he said, "to develop a government perspective for children."

In addition to these gaps in service, he had identified some rather controversial problem areas in the laws pertaining to children (particularly child welfare law) that he felt required change.

"I wanted to be involved in better promoting the rights of children and improving the procedures for deciding child-related cases," he said.

He also saw the Ministry position as an opportunity to transform some of his criticism of the "system" into concrete action.

"I had a tendency, not unlike many people outside government, to look in and be critical, he said.

While most judges remain on the outside looking in with limited opportunity to put such ideas into action, I was called to account for my advocacy."

Job proves to be more extensive than first envisaged

What Judge Thomson didn't realize in 1977 was the size of the job before him.

"I naively thought that it would only take three years to accomplish these goals," he said, "but now after five years, maybe half at best of the objectives have been fulfilled."

As he emphasizes, he quickly learned that there are no major answers - that any process of change requires many "building blocks".

"We recognized that no one thing we would try to do was going to provide a quick solution," he said, "we would need to introduce a number of changes cumulatively to achieve our goals."

He also came to realize, he notes, that although standards for service are important in some areas such as residential care, it would have been a mistake to try to regulate everything.

By pulling together information about children's services into a distinct framework, he says that the division actually gave service providers more freedom to develop and control their own programs.

"We said to the social service community, here is the state of the art, now go ahead and experiment, try new things keeping within these minimum guidelines," he said.

One "mini building block" about which he is most excited is the changes made in the Ministry's method of funding children's programs.

"The new services approach to funding has perhaps contributed the most to giving agencies more programming flexibility," he said.

He considers the advocacy measures introduced - complaint procedures for children in care and crown ward reviews - and the development of a firm policy on secure services other major accomplishments.

He is also pleased that the Ministry has been able to further examine previously unresearched areas of prevention and family support through the use of Ontario lottery dollars and special prevention funding.

The division tried to bring many of these changes together, he notes, by developing a succession of consultation papers.

"We did a lot of writing, perhaps too much, but the proposed changes of the past five years have been of such significance that we felt we had an ongoing responsibility to let the social services community know how we were doing, he said.

By keeping the lines of communication open, we received some valuable feedback from the agencies."

One project of which he is very proud is a recently issued paper that puts the process of change into perspective and outlines program priorities for the next decade, "Children's Services - Past, Present and Future".

It's the people that have made things work

Judge Thomson is quick to emphasize that what was really special about his five years as ADM of Children's Services were the people involved with him in the process of change.

"I had the opportunity to work with an exciting and committed group of people - I have never in my career experienced such quality and commitment and probably never will again, he said.

These are people who took on the development of certain policy areas and then carried through this responsibility right to the end - in other words, they both wrote and sold the concepts."

He says that he is also pleased with the kind of people that the Ministry has been able to attract to operate the regions and areas - people who have made the process of decentralization possible.

And he is particularly proud that a previously disparate group of agencies and government staff members are now starting to work together on planning for children.

Some changes still "in the works", despite achievements

Despite the very significant progress of the past five years, Judge Thomson says that there is still a fair amount of work to be done.

He notes that two specific legislative efforts that will have quite a significant impact on children, Ontario's comprehensive children's legislation and the federal Young Offender's Act, have yet to be finalized.

The services approach to funding, he says, must still be introduced in many other children's programs and an In-Home Support program for the developmentally handicapped as an alternative to residential care, is just now "in the works".

He suggests that further education is required to dissipate some of the fear associated with the concept of advocacy since the "right to be heard" continues to be interpreted as "the right to decide" and he hopes that work will be undertaken to develop the "case management" process.

And despite the real progress made to pull together the planning and delivery of children's services, he notes that some of the linkages between programs are rather weak.

"There is still some way to go to break down labels and separate boundaries," he said.

Five years time enough away from the bench

Although he would have liked to see all of these projects to fruition, Judge Thomson felt it time to return to the bench after a five-year leave of absence because he began to find it increasingly difficult to reconcile the role of judge and civil servant.

"Besides," he notes, "the job is such that I could have remained on for 20 years and there would still be five things left to finish before my departure."

However, he is quick to emphasize that he intends to participate in the implementation of the policy changes associated with the Omnibus legislation and the Young Offender's Act and will in fact be providing input as a judge to the Ministry.

In the meantime, he is devoting the next while to learning French first in an "immersion" course at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and later through a six-week exchange program in Jonquiere, Quebec.

Once he returns to the bench, he knows that his Ministry experience will make for a better informed judge.

"I will be able to judge the system from an incredibly different perspective - keeping in mind what is happening throughout the whole province, not just one distinct community," he said.

And I should add that my time within the Ministry has shattered many of the myths and stereotypes often held in relation to civil servants."



Judge Thomson and family at farewell reception

MINISTRY OFFERS LAST IN A SERIES OF RESEARCH GRANTS

Research grants totalling \$400,000 will be offered once again this year by the Ministry as part of a four-year four million dollar Provincial Lottery allocation. This represents the fourth and final year of a research competition which, since its initiation in 1979, has awarded some 37 grants. The grants program will be administered by the Ontario Mental Health Foundation and all applications will be subject to the Foundation's "Rules for Project Research". For a copy of these rules or an application form, please contact the Foundation's Executive Director. Information on past awards has also been provided in a pamphlet distributed through the Foundation (please see the address listed at the end of this article).

Research projects should be specific and with a fixed term of duration. Requests for one and two-year grants will be reviewed but requests for longer periods cannot be considered. These funds are not intended for programming, service costs, or major equipment purchases.

Research projects eligible for funding may involve any children's service function under Ministry direction:

- o day care
- o child welfare
- o juvenile corrections and detention
- o mental health
- o developmental handicaps

Research should focus on children with special needs requiring any one or a combination of these services. The research program has an applied or operational orientation. This means that most projects are expected to extend beyond the simple collection of broader knowledge to focus on knowledge which leads to action aimed at improving children's services.

Proposals are invited in two general research areas of top priority:

- o Primary Prevention
- o Intervention Evaluation

More specific interests within these broad categories are outlined in the Foundation pamphlet.

In an effort to further develop the research initiatives started in 1979-80, the Ministry is continuing with the same general priority areas. To avoid any duplication, prospective applicants should review the list of projects funded in earlier competitions (see last section of pamphlet). If your proposal appears to overlap with already funded research, you should contact the respective researcher for further information to ensure the development of a good balance of new or complementary projects.

A. Primary Prevention

The highest priority in children's programming has been identified as the development of services which work to prevent serious problems for children and families.

Primary prevention projects are an attempt to reduce the incidence of new cases in a population. There are two aspects of primary prevention:

- a) a focus on modifying the stressful environment - specific protection, and
- b) strengthening individual capacities to cope with stress - competence promotion.

B. Intervention Evaluation

Research is needed to test the effectiveness of certain treatment and rehabilitation strategies on specific disorders, disabilities, or problems. The Ministry has been making a concerted effort to describe the child in terms of his or her special needs rather than a professional service area; however, this new focus has revealed a distinct lack of knowledge in regards to the relationship between the presenting needs and/or characteristics of the child and the most effective form of intervention.

Another area requiring further examination is possible approaches for shifting resources towards alternatives to residential care. Research can be undertaken to determine the effectiveness of any type of service that aims specifically to keep families intact rather than placing children in residential care.

It should be noted that the usefulness of intervention evaluations is increased if the project design includes a cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis. Examples of eligible projects for both priority areas are provided in the pamphlet.

Grant Applications

In cases where other specialized funding is available, such as drug addiction, it is suggested that proposals be submitted to those sources.

Collaboration is encouraged between the academic research community and various agencies serving children with special needs to ensure that high quality proposals are developed. Relevant projects may involve any of the children's service areas listed previously although proposals are encouraged in the areas under-represented in previous competitions - child welfare, corrections and day care. All research applications should also include an explanation of the relevance of the proposal in terms of the specified priority areas.

The deadline for research grant applications is Thursday, September 30, 1982. Applications should be submitted to Mrs. Margaret Clark, Executive Director of the Ontario Mental Health Foundation at:

365 Bloor Street East
Suite 1708
Toronto, Ontario.
M4W 3L4

Tel: (416) 920-7721.

Ministry Contact Person

If you require any further clarification on the research priorities or information about related developments within the Ministry, contact Dr. Roma Scott, Senior Research Analyst, at (416) 965-3203.

"LIFE IS PRECIOUS - BUCKLE US IN" CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

An education campaign designed to promote the proper protection of children riding in motor vehicles has been launched by Ontario's Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The information program highlights the number of children injured yearly in Ontario motor vehicle accidents and given these statistics, outlines the importance of using seat belts or where necessary, special seating, to ensure that all child passengers are "buckled in" for safety.

To deliver this message, the Ministry has developed an education kit containing a pamphlet on the various applications of child restraint devices, a poster with photos of children in safety seats, and finally a teaching manual with techniques for demonstrating restraint use.

Any or all of these "child restraint" educational materials are available in English or French by writing:

The Communications Branch
Ministry of Community and
Social Services
Hepburn Block, 7th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 1E9

SERIES OF CHILD ABUSE GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry, through its Child Abuse Program, is offering grants to promote agency staff development and public education. There are two distinct categories of financial assistance:

1. Grants for Training Workshops and Professional Seminars

These are available to assist agencies who wish to train practitioners and supervisors in child abuse through workshops or professional seminars. Grants may also be obtained for projects that assist in increasing both public and professional awareness of child abuse as a community problem.

2. Grants for Development or Expansion of Libraries and Resource Centres

Assistance is available to establish or augment libraries or resource centres that contain child abuse audio and printed materials.

The resource centres are intended to assist local child abuse committees, universities, colleges and agencies that are involved in community education and the training of front-line practitioners.

To obtain brochures describing these grants in further detail, contact your regional Ministry office or the Child Abuse Program in Toronto at (416) 963-0163.

**VARIETY OF CHILD ABUSE
AUDIO VISUAL RESOURCES
AVAILABLE ON LOAN**

The Child Abuse Program has produced and/or purchased a variety of audio-visual resources. These materials were developed to train professionals or for public education, and should be of particular interest to social workers, early childhood educators, teachers, lawyers, police, child protection workers, doctors and nurses or other practitioners directly involved with child abuse.

1. An Unexplained Injury (16 mm - colour): A series of seven films produced by Instructional Media Services, University of Toronto, through a grant from the Child Abuse Program. The package consists of a core film, An Unexplained Injury and six related films and deals with such subjects as the signs of physical and psychological abuse, the economic and social circumstances contributing to abuse and the legal and moral responsibilities of professionals who suspect abuse. The series is accompanied by a training manual.
2. The Social Worker as a Courtroom Witness (16 mm - colour): A two-reel film produced by the University of Windsor Faculty of Law, through a Child Abuse Program grant. It is a demonstration of the procedures and special problems encountered by the social worker testifying as a courtroom witness. The film follows two specific trial processes: (1) the case of a child welfare application for Crown Wardship, as a result of child abuse, and (2) a manslaughter case in which a parent has been charged in the death of his or her child.

3. We Can Help: This package of six slide/tape programs has been adapted for Ontario use (in both English and French) from a series originally produced for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Ontario program highlights such topics as the identification of physical abuse or cases of neglect with specific reference to abuse and neglect evidenced in a school setting. Three programs focus on medical indicators of sexual or physical abuse, and neglect as manifested by skin trauma and internal injuries. The series is accompanied by a training manual.
4. Reporting Child Abuse: The Professional Position: This slide/cassette program was produced for the Ministry by the University of Toronto to provide information pertaining to reporting requirements contained in the Ontario Child Welfare Act, 1978. Brief interviews are conducted with representatives of various disciplines who discuss the implications of the Act in respect to their professions.

These and other 16 mm films, slides and tapes may be borrowed free of charge on a short-term basis through most Ontario Children's Aid Society offices or through Toronto's City Film. (416) 499-1400.

A FOCUS ON THE SOUTHWEST

**KITCHENER/WATERLOO CLASSES
 OFFER ADOPTIVE COUPLES A
 TASTE OF PARENTING**

Through a special program in Kitchener/Waterloo, area couples planning to adopt a child have the opportunity to learn the "ins" and "outs" of basic parenting.

The "Adoptive Parent Classes" were first launched in 1975 as a joint project of Family and Children's Services and the Waterloo Regional Health Unit. The sessions themselves are administered and taught by public health nurses in the Health Unit's Nursing Division.

The Supervisor of the project, Sally Thornton estimates that approximately 55 adoptive parents from Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Elmira or New Hamburg participate in the program per year with 10 families registered in each new set of classes. Three or four series are offered yearly and three classes held per session.

Referrals to the program all come from Family and Children's Services and are usually made once a couple has been approved as adoptive parents and placed on the waiting list for a baby.

She explains that the concept of "adoptive parent" sessions was developed through a series of meetings between F and CS and the Health Unit in response to an identified need for this type of support.

"The two agencies agreed that although instruction on parenting was available in a number of pre-natural classes, there was a relative void for those couples planning to adopt an infant, she said.

We felt that we should be providing these parents some sort of information on what to do when they receive the baby and that this support should be offered in the form of a group to bring all prospective adoptive parents together."

**Classes devoted mainly to child's
 physical care**

As the two nurses involved in teaching the program, Ellen Moses and Jane Daley explain, the six hours of instruction is an attempt to provide adoptive parents a general overview of infant growth and development by "zeroing in" primarily on the physical aspects of care.

The topics covered include the selection of proper baby equipment, immunization, nutrition and feeding, infant stimulation, baby care and bathing, safety, illness, infant bonding and the development of appropriate parenting skills.

Instruction is generally in the form of discussion groups rather than lectures and the two women note that films, resource materials and demonstrations highlight their presentations.

"For example, we schedule an actual demonstration of proper bathing techniques using either adoptive or natural parents and their babies and give the group members plenty of pamphlets and booklets", they said.

Once the classes are completed and the couple receives their new infant, they can request a follow-up home visit from a public health nurse in their region.

Most parents very involved in program

Although participation in the program is not compulsory, the two nurses emphasize that most adoptive parents are extremely motivated to attend the classes.

"A number of these couples are older and have had much more time to prepare for a child so they're really hungry for information and interested in certain aspects of care such as infant stimulation and nurturing," they said.

In fact, in response to their requests for further ideas or suggestions, the nurses say some mothers have indicated that they would like to explore the possibility of breast-feeding their new babies.

They have also noticed that the adoptive parents are supportive of one another.

"We usually have quite supportive groups and sometimes a family that adopts a second child will rejoin the classes to share their experiences with the others," they said.

But what they say they are especially impressed with, is the involvement of the adoptive father in the groups.

"What we really enjoy is the reaction of the fathers to the classes and particularly to the films, they said.

You don't generally think of them as emotional but we can see their eyes light up when they're watching the films and demonstrations - they are really interested in sharing."

AT BRANTFORD'S PEPPI PRESCHOOL CENTRE PARENTS "RUN THE SHOW"

At PEPPI Preschool Centre in Brantford parents are the key to a successful program.

This is because PEPPI, or the Preschool Enrichment Program with Parental Involvement, is 80 percent parent-operated.

What this means is that parents who join the program not only learn how to cope with their own children but are eventually assigned to work as "therapists" for other families.

Termed "head start with a difference" PEPPI has its origins in a similar preventive program developed by the Department of Mental Health in Nashville, Tennessee. The Canadian version is the work of the Children's Aid Society of Brant and with a 1981 budget of \$123,000 is considered one of the agency's most extensive and longest-running preventive programs.

According to PEPPI Director, George Speers, the current program is actually a consolidation of two services that originated in 1969: GIDUP - a weekly drop-in group for new mothers and PEPPI - a model of the U.S. headstart program but with minimal parental involvement.

After a trip to Nashville convinced him that such preventive services should be focusing more on entire families not just the children, PEPPI was reintroduced as a completely parent-implemented program, affiliated with the Regional Program in Nashville.

First principle of current program is parental involvement

Today, the PEPPI philosophy is "anything parents are able to do, they're encouraged to do" and this means getting parents involved right from the outset.

As Doug Fulcher, one of only three professionals (the other two are Mr. Speers and Millie Valian, the IT resource person) located at the Centre explains, when families (more often mothers and their children) first enter treatment they are asked to determine their own goals and decide how many problems they wish to tackle at the same time.

"It is all up to the parents to define how many problems they feel capable of handling during treatment," he said, "and then to say when they feel satisfied that their objectives have been accomplished."

He emphasizes that one element contributing to this informal involvement is the Centre's very open concept.

"Our filing system is open and all assessments from outside bodies are always shared with the parents," he said.

In fact, there are really no offices here so everyone, including the resource staff, is subject to scrutiny but this we hope encourages peer support.

PEPPI families assigned to one of two types of treatment

The Centre offers families two basic types of treatment - generalization training (referred to as GT) and individualized training (IT).

Children assigned to GT are generally those with behaviour problems such as temper tantrums, verbal or physical aggression, non-compliance and hyperactivity while IT children are delayed developmentally with problems in speech and motor skills or difficulties feeding and dressing themselves. Some children referred to the Centre require both types of care).

Referrals of GT children usually come from the Public Health Department, the CAS or parents themselves. IT children, however, are more often referred by speech therapists, doctors, psychologists and specialists in infant development.

GT families spend approximately three months in treatment and receive six-month and one year "post checks" while most IT cases remain in the program at least a year until ready for another placement such as school or more specialized treatment.

Whether assigned to GT or IT, children meet three mornings per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) and are grouped according to age in one of three classes - the toddlers (a sort of day care service for those not yet able to walk), the Junior group for one to 2 1/2 year olds and the Senior class for the three to four year olds.

Basically the same schedule is followed in both the Junior and Senior groups and includes such activities as "free play", "tidy-up", "story-time", "circle-time" and "puzzles".

At some pre-assigned time during the morning, however, the children are removed from the preschool classes to join their mothers for treatment and assessment.

The daily training session is an opportunity for a mother and her child to practise a particular behaviour routine, motor skill or speech exercise while being observed and assessed by the parent assigned to manage the case.

Role-playing is used extensively to teach parents new behaviour or skills and much of the feedback is provided in the form of data from linear graphs.

Outside of the regular GT and IT programs, PEPPI also operates a preschool coop for those children who have completed treatment but are not yet ready to start kindergarten.

With completion of treatment, parents enter "Payback"

Parents who enter the PEPPI program participate with the understanding that once treatment is completed, they will commit a minimum of 30 mornings to "Payback".

Since there is no direct fee for the sessions, parents pay the Centre for the training they receive with their assistance. They are asked to select from any of a number of positions including "case manager", "rater" and "preschool teacher". Parents with children in the preschool coop are also expected to complete one "duty afternoon" per week.

The "teachers" operate the daily play program in the preschool classrooms while the "raters" collect data on the children in this setting to determine whether their play skills are progressing.

As a case manager, a parent is responsible for assessing, treating and monitoring up to three case assignments.

Treatment and assessment is in the form of daily 15-minute sessions during which time the case manager observes and rates the behavioural or skill sequence designed for a particular mother and child and then provides feedback on what ensued during the training exercise.

Case managers also teach parents how to maintain the child's newly learned skills in the home and ensure that ongoing data is collected on these "real-life" experiences.

Mr. Fulcher is quick to emphasize that the resource staff is always available to discuss any problems or uncertainties and in fact they have discouraged case managers from giving parents blanket suggestions without some prior consultation or approval.

Whether problems arise or not, he adds that the cases are all discussed at least once per week by the resource staff and the Coordinators of the IT and GT case managers. This team also conducts formal case reviews every 25 to 32 training days to identify and recommend any necessary changes in format.

Parents show real commitment to PEPPI

As Mr. Fulcher indicates, most parents who have joined PEPPI have made it through the entire program and become quite committed to the Centre.

Two such mothers are Cheryl Fraser, now a GT Case Manager and Joan Brintnell, the IT Coordinator (one of five graduate parents now paid for working at the Centre).

Mrs. Fraser, who came to PEPPI when she had trouble coping with her son's whining, says the Centre is really just "one big happy family".

She notes that the program has not only helped her control her son's behaviour but as a Case Manager she is now acquiring a new set of parenting skills.

"By working with other parents I am learning about situations that I have yet to experience," she said, "this will make me better able and more confident to deal with these problems should they ever arise in my family."

Mrs. Brintnell, whose son Michael was at PEPPI for over a year, first in GT for behavioural problems and later in IT to treat certain motor delays, vouches from plenty of experience that the problem really does work.

"Things are finally quiet around our home because we no longer have so many behavioural difficulties with Michael and I am happy to say that I use some of the PEPPI techniques on my younger son to avoid potential problems," she said.



A GT session in progress . . .

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK COMMUNITY GATHERS FORCES TO PROVIDE NEW MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT SERVICE

A communal approach to mental health programming was recently launched in the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk to provide treatment and counselling services to area children and their families.

Although "Children's Mental Health Services of Haldimand-Norfolk" has only been operating since the beginning of August, 1981, some 170 children from eight months to 19 years have already taken advantage of the new program with a total caseload of 110 to 115 currently in treatment. This year the service has been allocated a total of \$300,000 in Ministry funding.

As the Executive Director of the new Centre, Humphrey Mitchell explains, his staff "wear a number of different hats".

"In some situations we are the first place people turn to while in others we serve as the intermediary or middle ground between the child and an appropriate specialized treatment program, he said.

But whatever the case, we always try to act as advocates on behalf of the child by identifying what type of help he or she needs and then going after it."

He notes that a good portion of the referrals to the service (which in this rural community come mostly from doctors and schools) have been children unable to control their behaviour either at home, in school or out in the community or those suffering from stress and tension due to such family difficulties as a marriage breakdown or a spouse's death.

For these type of problems, he says that his staff will provide a range of services both to children and their parents including counselling, training in new behaviour management skills and even education in parenting.

He emphasizes that one reason the Centre is so equipped to handle a diverse load is because his staff have many different skills and an assortment of treatment backgrounds.

Right now the full-time treatment team consists of two therapists, two child care workers and a registered nurse with teachers in special education and two staff from Sprucedale training school available to provide consultation. A psychiatrist will be located at the Centre one day per week as of June and plans are underway to hire a registered psychologist.

"So you see," Mr. Mitchell notes, "with representation from psychiatry, psychology, social work, child care and education, we have a pretty broad base."

Other goal of Centre is public education

Beyond the traditional treatment and counselling services, the Centre is also committed to public and community education in an effort to diffuse some of the misconceptions associated with the term, "mental health".

"Some people automatically think that mental means crazy," he said, "what we're trying to illustrate is that children's mental health is a positive concept and a very beneficial type of service."

One way he has attempted to deliver this message is through public speaking engagements. Over the past few months, Mr. Mitchell has visited a number of community organizations including church groups and school associations to introduce the new program and describe the kinds of problems the Centre is prepared to handle.

"By providing this forum for discussion, I find that more people are willing to speak out about their difficulties and several of these informal meetings often result in referrals," he said.

He notes that Centre staff members are also reaching out to the community by devoting a good portion of their efforts to "house calls".

"It takes about two hours to travel from one end of the region to the other and many of our clients just can't afford the time or expense to come in to the Centre - so if we didn't go to them they just wouldn't receive the service, he said.

Besides, in this type of rural community many families feel more comfortable discussing their problems in their own home."

Mr. Mitchell goes on to note that it is their eventual hope to counteract some of the distance problems by opening a series of satellite centres in the outlying communities of Port Rowan, Delhi, Simcoe, Cayuga and Dunnville.

This move, he emphasizes, will not only reduce staff travel time but increase the program's overall visibility.

"Situated directly in a community, a worker can't help but become more familiar with that particular environment. With this increased awareness, he or she will have a better chance of meeting local needs and being accepted, he said.

Once the community gets used to us, it will become easier for people to approach us when they need help."

Program development a cooperative effort

As Mr. Mitchell emphasizes, one element that has contributed tremendously to the efficient development and rapid expansion in service is the amount of ongoing cooperation from the Haldimand-Norfolk community.

He says that a number of organizations including the Ministry's London area office, the Ministries of Health and Education, the local Children's Aid Societies and area school boards, were responsible for helping to launch the program and are now cooperating closely with the service to provide referrals, consultation and other required back-up support.

"It's a matter of various government ministries and community associations working hand in hand to bring the services together, he said.

You never feel like you're doing it on your own - with all of this support there is a real spirit of cooperation."

He goes on to note that with services now in relatively full operation, plans for the future include a move to the more central location of Townsend, an expanding emphasis on public education and "preventive maintenance" to eliminate the need for "band-aid" work and the development of some sort of process to evaluate the impact of the new program.

He says that from informal feedback received so far, the Centre appears to be meeting community needs.

"One of the best indicators is that if we weren't providing community members what they wanted they wouldn't be using the service, he said.

Besides in a rural area such as this the communication networks are much tighter and so if we're off base we find out very quickly - we get feedback from many different sources."

WOODSTOCK-AREA FOSTER PARENTS "CLUSTER" FOR SUPPORT"

A "cluster" of foster parents in the Woodstock area are joining forces on a regular basis in an effort to share experiences and provide mutual support.

The new model was initiated by Oxford Family and Children's Services Director, Ross Dawson and implemented by the Society's Children's Services Unit.

The three social workers responsible for the program, Pat McGarrity, Mark Benner and Marion Fox explained in a recent interview that clusters are four or five-member foster parent groups serving as sort of "extended families" to exchange information, help in problem solving and offer therapeutic support.

The eventual aim of this new model is to transform the role of the social worker from primary therapist to consultant for each cluster group.

The three note that one particular reason for the introduction of the program was to offer foster parents some sort of much-needed contact or partnership with others who have undergone similar kinds of problems.

"Foster care is a special kind of process," they said, "and often in the past parents who had problems with their children felt isolated because these difficulties just couldn't be shared with a neighbour."

They stress that this program allows foster parents to benefit from the experience of others.

"In most of our clusters, people have fostered for varying lengths of time so newer members are given the opportunity to ask 'what did you do when ...' and in the process, learn from more experienced couples," they said.

The three workers agree that the structure of the groups also ensures a more co-ordinated effort between the Society and its foster families.

"In the past, often three children in a particular foster home had a different primary worker," they said, "now all children placed in one family will be assigned the same worker."

New system uses location and age factors to group parents

In the new cluster system, parents have been grouped according to their geographic location and the age range of the children in their care.

A total of 11 foster parent clusters are currently in operation encompassing three age groups - couples with preschoolers, children at the latency stage of development and adolescents - and four basic locations - Woodstock, Ingersoll, Norwich/Tillsonburg and a series of small communities east of Woodstock. (Ms Fox oversees the pre-school clusters, Mr. McGarrity the latency groups and Mr. Benner the adolescents).

As of April, the Oxford CAS has placed 60 children in 54 foster families, with some homes accommodating up to four unrelated children.

The three workers all agree that to gain full benefit from the system, group meetings should be held at the very minimum, bi-weekly. But outside of this limit, they emphasize that the clusters really have a tremendous amount of flexibility.

"We let each individual group decide where, when and how often they want to meet, they said.

In fact, depending on the preferences of a particular cluster, sessions can be held at the agency's headquarters or in foster parent homes, with some scheduled during the day and others at night."

Meetings follow quite informal pattern

They explain that the sessions so far have been quite informal: the meetings range from two to four hours and the basic format followed by most groups includes an exchange of any problems encountered by the parents, an update on newly launched CAS programs and discussion/interpretation of various sections of the Ministry's new policy paper, "Foster Care: Proposed Standards and Guidelines for Agencies Placing Children."

Mr. Benner has noticed in his adolescent clusters that as the parents continue to share experiences and difficulties with one another, they soon discover a common bond.

"When something happens between sessions to a particular foster couple, they save it up to relate at the meeting, he said.

By talking these things out, foster parents are able to support one another and have started to recognize that many of their problems are not so bad because they're all really quite common."

Mr. McGarrity adds that the cluster system is proving to be an excellent forum for introducing the proposed foster care standards and guidelines.

"By using the cluster group to share the standards and guidelines, we are able to make parents aware of the new policy and get their feedback, he said.

This has brought out a number of problems we just never would have thought about and has proven to our foster parents that we consider their involvement essential to the decision making process."

Clusters bring about change in foster parent/social worker relationship

One interesting consequence of the new cluster process is the transformation in the traditional relationship between social worker and foster parent.

Mr. Benner remarks that he is encouraged by how much initiative his group has shown - not always looking to him for leadership.

"For instance when I'm late for meetings, they do not wait for me to start, he said.

I'm trying not to come across as the social worker with all the knowledge and the answers because it is our eventual hope in this program to reduce some of the foster parent's dependence on the front-line worker."

At the same time, as Mr. McGarrity notes, the cluster system has given all three workers the opportunity to really get to know their foster parents.

"Our contact with the couples is now more frequent and more regular due to the clusters," he said, "because we're not just helping our parents in emergency situations."

He stresses, however, that they still arrange to see their foster families on a regular basis outside of the cluster groups and in fact, demand for these meetings has shown a temporary increase with the workers' increased availability.

"In the program's initial stages we have felt it necessary to be more available and so many couples have taken advantage of this, he said.

But I suspect that the demand for our assistance will drain off by the end of the year as foster clusters grow stronger and more confident of their problem-solving capabilities."

System receives favourable response

Although Ms Fox says that her pre-school groups have been somewhat slower "to get off the ground" (since many of the homes concerned are currently vacant), all workers cite a fairly high response rate. (Attendance at the sessions is presently not mandatory but will be required for all new foster parents).

In Mr. McGarrity's groups 12 of 18 members regularly attend cluster meetings, 14 of 22 foster families are represented so far in Ms Fox's group and all 14 of Mr. Benner's "adolescent" parents are in attendance at most meetings. Among these groups, about 90 per cent of the "adolescent" fathers and 50 per cent of fathers in the remaining clusters participate in the bi-weekly sessions.

Mr. Benner says he is proud of how committed many of the parents are to the new system.

"The foster parents consider the bi-weekly session a very relaxed social kind of evening that is also helping them with their work, he said.

And there is a latent sort of commitment to the group. When members can't attend they phone and let us know."

In fact he is amazed by the degree of ownership many parents are showing towards their groups.

"When someone doesn't attend a session, another group member will give that family a call to find out why, he said.

The parents emphasize that they want to help the others in their group, especially the newer members."

WARDSVILLE'S TWIN VALLEYS SCHOOL A FOSTERING COMMUNITY WITH A STRONG DOSE OF EDUCATION

This past January, Twin Valleys in Wardsville received its licence as a Boarding Home under the Ministry's Children's Residential Services Act, 1978 and its accreditation as a high school for special students under Section 28 of the Ontario Ministry of Education Act.

As the school's Executive Director, David Pasikov notes, this was after nine years of support from Windsor's St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology and with the termination of that contract in 1980, almost two years of hard work to meet Ontario government residential and educational standards.

The Twin Valleys program has evolved since its inception in 1971 as a "community outreach project in a collection of tents" into what Mr. Pasikov today terms a "fostering community with a strong educational base".

"The aim is to provide kids who have swung into the youth subculture a new lease on life," he said, "in other words, we equip them with the life skills to successfully reintegrate into the mainstream."

The focus of Twin Valleys, he explains, is on short-term goals and experiential learning.

"Since long-term goals mean very little to our kids, we try in the short-run to teach them how to learn, he said.

Our emphasis is on the development of physical, academic, vocational and social skills through direct experience - that is, by doing and by application."

Mr. Pasikov notes that the residential program is prepared to accept children demonstrating a range of "antisocial" behaviour patterns including truancy, chronic involvement with drugs or alcohol, stealing or shoplifting, sexual deviance, manageable psychiatric disorders and any of the problems associated with the absence of a suitable parental model or a history of parental abuse.

He stresses, however, that eighty percent of the Twin Valleys population consists of what the Ministry terms the high-risk child.

An average of 20 students ranging in age from 14 to 18 years are enrolled in the program at any one time with an average ratio of three boys to every one girl.

Referrals come generally from Children's Aid Societies or Probation and Aftercare and all children recommended for the program are asked to participate in a pre-placement visit.

"This way, both of us are able to see what we are potentially getting into before we make any decisions."

Process of reeducation launched with very arrival of the child

From the moment our children arrive, Mr. Pasikov emphasizes, we begin the process to equip them with the skills that will assist their integration into the mainstream.

This is accomplished largely through a comprehensive educational program that includes academic and vocational training as well as experience with the arts and recreation.

The community school, which is compulsory for all children in care, is what he considers the "jewel" of Twin Valleys.

The format is essentially individualized instruction in an effort to provide a relaxed learning experience to students, who when threatened by the demands of the classroom in the past reacted aggressively or were truant.

"We try to create a non-threatening atmosphere where students are allowed to progress at their own rate," he said.

Mornings, students are required to take Math and English and at least one of science and/or Canadian Studies (history and geography). There are a maximum of six children per subject group and the class mix is changed every 12 weeks.

In the afternoons, the Twin Valleys program shifts to recreational, vocational and arts instruction.

Students are asked to select from any of a number of options including courses in home economics, sewing, weaving, pottery, typing, drafting, metal or wood work, landscaping, electronics, computer programming, auto mechanics, plumbing, first aid, hydroponic lettuce growing, beekeeping, farming and child care. Instruction is also available in theatre arts, painting, music, basic photography, journalism and 'ham' radio operation.

Optional classes are of six weeks duration, at which time the student can select another subject or return to the same course of study.

A minimum of two hours is also set aside each week for open recreation and a variety of intra-mural sporting activities.

Academic program follows ordinary school year

This basic school program is offered from September to June and right now a student's average length of stay in care is for the duration of the school year.

However, for those who arrive after June or are required to remain for the summer, the emphasis shifts from academics (although remedial work is provided where necessary) to more intense arts/vocational instruction and plenty of outdoor recreation.

In fact, as Mr. Pasikov notes, it is during this time that the school is able to fully launch an outdoor adventure program.

He says that a special camp (which includes an obstacle course) has been constructed on the Twin Valleys property to teach such outdoor pursuits as rock-climbing, backpacking, canoeing, biking and orienteering.

Students are also taken on expeditions outside the community to various lakes, rivers and mountains throughout Ontario. Some trips are made in collaboration with the Ministry's Project D.A.R.E. near South River.

This crash course in the art of wilderness survival, he explains, is a means of inspiring greater character development and personal responsibility.

"We are trying to provide our students with opportunities to experience all kinds of problem-solving and leadership situations as well as group dynamics in the wild," he said.

Special feature of Twin Valleys program is spirit of cooperation

A key feature of the Twin Valleys program, Mr. Pasikov emphasizes, is the promotion of community cooperation, team work and a sense of "group relatedness."

This spirit is developed primarily through the use of the "Kiva" (a Hopi Indian word meaning "circle of friends") and a system that evaluates how much a student is investing in the welfare of the community as a whole and to his or her friends in the Kiva group.

He explains that the essence of this system is to award the children points for participation - in their Kiva groups, in the daily class program and in a part-time job.

Each afternoon from 3:30 to 5 p.m. (with the exception of Wednesdays) students are expected to work in some area of Twin Valleys such as the woodlot, auto shop, switchboard, kitchen or on general maintenance.

He notes that besides indicating a student's responsibility to the community, this exercise is an attempt to teach some basic employability skills by encouraging the student to treat each job as an actual employment situation.

"In fact, employees are required to maintain a work card which monitors punctuality and includes a weekly evaluation by employers," he said, "and if a particular employee doesn't measure up he or she can be temporarily laid off or fired."

No matter the job, positions are changed every six weeks, at which time students are required to complete a new application and participate in another job interview.

The salary for such work is \$1.00 per hour and this forms part of a total weekly "draw", to a maximum of \$12.00, which students can earn based on their Kiva standing.

Additional Kiva points are awarded to students who show consistent responsibility and involvement in the other aspects of the Twin Valley program - those who reach "mature student" status receive a further \$2.50 per week while "senior students" earn an extra \$5.00 per week.

In addition to these individual incentives to participate, Mr. Pasikov emphasizes that a certain amount of peer group pressure is built into the Kiva award system.

Every six weeks students are assigned to one of three Kiva groups and during this period all points earned by individual members also belong to their group. The "Kiva" that amasses the most points over the six weeks wins four cents per point (the losers earn two cents) to use towards a recreational project of their choice (for example during the most recent "competition" period, all three Kiva groups donated \$200.00 towards a new television set).

Each Kiva group is also responsible for selecting a community service project to undertake as a team on Wednesday afternoons. Most are based at Twin Valleys but may include visiting a local senior citizens' home or working as youth assistants in the local hospital.

Through "Operation Integration" students and faculty become more of a family

Mr. Pasikov is especially proud of a relatively new aspect of the Twin Valleys program - "Operation Integration" - that has brought students and faculty together "under one roof".

The school has some 33 staff members (including child care/social workers, teachers and support service personnel) and up until last May most of these adults were housed in family quarters separate from the child residents.

This, he emphasizes, led to all kinds of vandalism and violence as well as substantial staff burnout.

To combat these problems and at the same time provide the children with the security and control of a solid home environment, it was decided to introduce a shared living arrangement between the children and staff members.

Now depending on their particular needs for nurturing, all student placements are assigned either to a "family model" or "big brother/sister model" home.

This new arrangement, he says provides a sense of stability while promoting independence.

"The students learn independent living skills in a very supportive environment, he said.

By placing our kids in this sort of "foster" situation, we are encouraging bonding - a sense of meaningfulness between the staff and the children."

WATCH FOR IN OUR UPCOMING ISSUES *****

IN-HOME SUPPORT FOR MR CHILDREN:

a feature on this exciting alternative to residential care.

FUNDING CMHC'S:

a look at implementing the services approach to funding Ontario Children's Mental Health Centres

NEEDS TESTING FOR DAY NURSERY SERVICES:

an analysis of this day care policy paper.

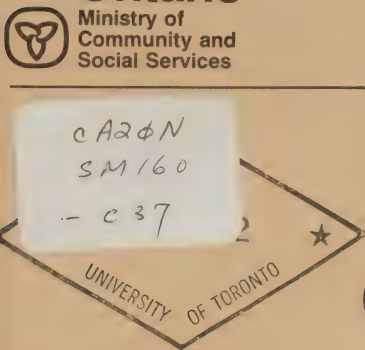
OUT IN THE FIELD:

a focus on Southeastern Region

KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING !!

If you have any story ideas for our next issues or just want to comment on one of the already published articles please contact:

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Children's Services

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Ministry Prepares for 1983-84 Launching of "Services" Funding in Ontario CHMC's

Consultation and planning is now underway to allow for the introduction of the services approach to funding in provincial Children's Mental Health Centres during 1983-84.

The implementation will be conducted on a phased basis in order that appropriate data classification and reporting systems for CMHCs might be established and to avoid disruptions to individual agencies while they adapt to the new methods.

As one of the major elements of the children's services delivery system in terms of expenditures and range of resources available, the CMHC has been selected as the next program to adopt this funding approach following its successful implementation in all Ontario Children's Aid Societies.

In a December 1979 paper, "Funding of Children's Services in the 1980's", the Ministry deemed "services" funding the best means of developing an integrated and coordinated funding approach - a cohesive planning, budgeting, funding and accountability system - for all children's services in Ontario.

By introducing such a framework, the Ministry hopes to improve its capacity to allocate and manage its resources and ensure a more equitable distribution of support according to community needs and priorities.

The "services" approach, as the name implies, ties funding to services rather than individual line

items or program areas by basing levels of financial support on the requirements of clients being served.

This method establishes consistency in funding resources that are similar in type and level, while recognizing the cost implications of individual or local service needs.

The implementation of services funding involves such basic components as the setting of financial objectives, the introduction of a standardized budgeting and reimbursement system, the establishment (through the service plan) of a more clearly defined planning process which includes a balanced inventory of residential and non-residential resources and the development of an improved Ministry capacity to monitor service utilization.

Services approach implies some new goals for CMHC program

For CMHC's the services approach would mean working to fulfill a number of specific objectives. These include better defining agency mandates to reduce the need for Ministry intervention in daily operations, ensuring agency involvement with community groups to identify local service needs and developing a consistent financial and program reporting system that provides feedback for resource planning decisions.

These and other issues are all presented in the background paper, "Implementation of the Services Approach to Funding in Children's Mental Health Centres" prepared by the Funding Policy Development section of the Ministry's Finance and Administration division.

In addition to discussing the fundamentals of "services" funding and establishing exactly why it is needed in the CMHC program, much of the paper is devoted to outlining how the Ministry will begin to implement the services approach in CMHC's during 1983-84.

As the paper notes, the major component scheduled for introduction is the service plan.

This device will accompany or support a CMHC budget request as the prime means of demonstrating how an agency's financial and service objectives or costs and specified services are to be linked.

It is emphasized that the Ministry intends to "phase in" this launching process based on a Centre's ability to complete a service plan in support of its budget request for fiscal 1983-84. All CMHC's are expected, however, to develop such a plan by the beginning of fiscal 1983-84.

The phased-in approach also reflects the fact that an appropriate data collection and reporting scheme for classifying the costs of resources, identifying duplication or gaps in service and monitoring programs has yet to be established. It is hoped that such a system will be ready for initial introduction during 1983-84.

This means that in the first year's service plan, CMHC's will be expected to define resources in their own terms and to allocate the costs of such services according to their own system. This format will be revised sometime late in 1983-84 with the creation of standardized service and cost definitions.

Residential and non-residential services to be balanced

Work will also be commenced in 1983-84 to encourage an appropriate balance between residential and non-residential resources in light of local requirements.

To this end, Centres offering both residential and non-residential services will be asked to identify such

resources and allocate their budgets according to these two broad categories.

The introduction of the service plan concept during 1983-84 will greatly assist the formation of short and long-term financial objectives for each CMHC program.

As the background paper explains, the level of funding available to an agency will be guaranteed for the length of the service plan, assuming that a Centre continues to offer services that meet the priorities designated during the planning process.

"The Ministry's intent is to provide stability for CMHC's and protection against excessive demands on their services...while allowing flexibility for possible re-allocation of resources within and between agencies in accordance with changing priorities and local requirements."

The document goes on to emphasize that CMHC's will be expected to manage within their total approved budget allocation - that the province will not be supporting any deficits.

However, it is noted that beginning in 1983-84, cost-efficient CMHC's will be allowed to retain all surpluses provided that service objectives have been met and the Centre has a concrete plan (approved by the Ministry) for the use of the excess funds.

The Ministry also plans to offer similar incentives for agencies willing to generate additional revenue from non-Ministry sources.

The paper closes by reiterating the fundamental benefits of the services approach to funding:

"(It) encourages the translation of Ministry priorities and expectations for agency mandates into specific service plans based on the identification of children's mental health requirements at the local level and on fairer comparisons of service costs."

"The introduction of the services approach in CMHC's will, by strengthening agency, Ministry and

community planning for the use of public resources, ensure a more co-ordinated range of services to children and their families both within CMHC's and between CMHC's and other children's services."

Family Support Worker Study Results in Two Reports

An evaluation of family support worker models undertaken for the Ministry through provincial lottery funding has been completed and the conclusions presented in the form of two reports.

The purpose of the study was to identify the key elements of a family support worker model and the requirements for effective implementation, review similar models in other jurisdictions, examine the applicability of family support worker models for families with special needs children and finally, evaluate the Ontario Mental Retardation Family Support Worker program.

The first paper, "Key Elements of a Family Support/Case Management Model" begins by explaining why case management models have evolved in several jurisdictions over the past twenty years. For example, this system is seen as a means of assisting clients to obtain the appropriate services needed while providing such service delivery in a more cost-efficient manner.

The document goes on to outline the five major functions of a case management process (assessment/service plan development/service coordination/monitoring delivery/evaluation and follow-up) noting that various systems may describe these activities differently depending on the situations in which they must operate.

Also discussed are factors that should be considered with the implementation of a case management function. These include the availability of explicit policies and operating procedures and the adoption of team vs. individual case management approaches.

The paper concludes by examining the impact of the case management approach on clients and service delivery systems. It reviews relevant components that are already in place in the Ontario children's services delivery network and suggests how these elements can be expanded or integrated to further develop case management.

The project's second paper, "Evaluation Report/Ontario Family Support Worker Program" presents the findings of an evaluative study based on seven of thirty Ontario organizations hosting family support workers.

The report profiles the structure, climate and program objectives of these organizations with a major distinction made between the resources of larger multi-service organizations and smaller, autonomous programs.

The paper describes how family support workers perceive their roles and goes on to profile the basic functions of such a job including operating procedures, caseload characteristics, work histories and training.

Also highlighted are the client characteristics with quite an extensive evaluation conducted of the impact of the program on its clients and on service coordination in general.

The major positive finding of the study is that there is a high level of client satisfaction with Ontario's Family Support Workers program.

However there is some indication of a gap between program policies and the actual practices of family support workers as well as a lack of clarity vis-a-vis the role of such workers as case managers.

The Ministry is currently working to develop a policy on case management for all children's services other than regular day care. The two reports noted above are among a variety of background materials under review. In the meantime, the Ministry's Operational Support Branch is considering ways to improve the Family Support Workers program in the context of the original policy.

Copies of the two reports may be obtained by contacting:

Program Information
Ministry of Community
and Social Services
Hepburn Block, 6th floor
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9

1982 Version of Ontario Child Abuse Compendium Issued to Public

The compendium of Ontario local activities related to child abuse has been updated as of May, 1982 and is now available to organizations engaged in efforts to identify and deal with child abuse.

The directory, which is compiled from a survey of local agencies and Child Abuse program files, is a practical index to local initiatives. It contains information about local child abuse teams, committees, professional training, public education and other projects.

The data is presented by community and Children's Aid Society jurisdiction. There is one exception - Metropolitan Toronto - which is separated according to city and borough.

Each section contains the names, addresses and telephone numbers of contact persons associated with the related CAS office, Ministry area office, planning and coordinating committee(s), treatment and case management team(s) and Parents Anonymous groups.

The 1982 compendium is the fourth edition, with previous directories prepared in 1977, 1978 and 1980. The series represents a component of the Government's efforts to encourage and support local initiatives while facilitating consultation and cooperation among communities.

Copies of the publication may be obtained, free of charge, by contacting:

The Child Abuse Program
1 St. Clair Ave. West, 9th floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1K6

A Focus on Southeastern Region



Curve Lake day care centre . . .

Recent Agreement Brings Child Welfare Services to Curve Lake Reserve

In March, 1982 an agreement was signed between the Curve Lake Indian Band, the Ministry and the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society which would see the establishment of "culturally appropriate" child welfare services on the Peterborough-area reserve.

At the root of the Curve Lake Child Welfare project (not unlike all such agreements) is the belief that Indian Bands should assume a greater role in the provision of child welfare services to native families.

Although existing federal legislation assigns the child welfare mandate solely to the province (through the CAS), Tri-Partite negotiations (Indian Bands/the province/the federal government) are underway to examine possible changes in jurisdiction that would reflect the new principles.

In the meantime it is felt that Band Councils should be working to develop the capacity that will allow them to take full control of native child welfare programs.

For the Curve Lake Indian Band this means developing child welfare policies and procedures that respond

to the special needs of native children, establishing emergency foster homes within the community to avoid removal of any child from the reserve, assuming responsibility for day-to-day services to families and providing support to reduce the incidence of family crises.

The Curve Lake Band currently consists of 741 members, 155 of which are children. This includes 51 children from birth to ten years of age, 81 between 11 and 16 years and the remaining 23 under 21 or a total of 111 families with children.

A number of resources are already in place within the reserve community including a day care centre (with a capacity of 25), school programming up to grade two, a welfare administrator, public health nurse and police services.

Band's prevention work a two-step process

As Peterborough area Program Supervisor, Kevin Morris explains, the initial focus will be on preventing children from coming into care and then on the prevention of specific disabilities.

"At first the Band will be responding to immediate needs by creating emergency foster support directly on the reserve, he said.

Once this is accomplished, we can focus on more generalized prevention activities including assistance to actual families and the strengthening of existing family support systems."

He is quick to point out, however, that any such drive for autonomy must be based on a cooperative relationship between the Kawartha-Haliburton CAS and the Curve Lake Band Council.

"We recognize that there has been a traditional mistrust between native Bands and child welfare agencies, he said.

For example, in the past, the Curve Lake community only approached the Society during a crisis - the Band thought of the CAS as a group that just came in and removed the children from the reserve."

Ministry serves as intermediary between two groups

Mr. Morris notes that from the outset the Ministry's role was to act as a catalyst to bring these two rather diffident parties together.

This began when he first approached the CAS with the idea in April, 1981 and then made a similar presentation to the entire Band Council in May. A committee was eventually organized in October and its members started meeting in November, 1981 to undertake the process of preparing a service proposal.

This project committee consisted of the Band Welfare Administrator, Day Care Supervisor, Community Health representative, Band Administrator and the Chief as well as Dorothy Barrass, the Executive Director of the Kawartha-Haliburton Society.

As Miss Barrass notes, quite a number of meetings were scheduled in a rather short space of time to determine just why the project should be launched, how difficulties would be resolved and to agree upon the qualifications of the native worker.

By early February a joint proposal was presented and passed by both the Band Council and the CAS Board of Directors. The native child care worker, Donna Taylor, was hired at the end of February with operations underway by the beginning of April.

NCC worker given gradual introduction to the job

Kevin Sullivan, the CAS staff member responsible for supervising project operations, emphasizes that the key to the successful implementation of services is being very mindful of working at the native child care worker's pace.

"We have to provide Donna with support every step of the way recognizing the binds she may encounter," he said, "our plan is to ease her gradually into the job until she assumes full responsibility at the end of about one year."

However it is important, he adds, that the Society maintain a relatively passive role as a consultant to this process, allowing the worker and the Band to develop their own programs.

"All we can do is assist," he said, "the resources that are really going to last are those that they create themselves."

He explains that much of Donna's attention so far has been focused on recruiting reserve families willing to provide emergency foster care, as was agreed in the plan of service.

This, he notes, has involved a fair amount of informal PR work, giving Donna the chance to meet all of the reserve families in an innocuous sort of way.

Mrs. Taylor says that the people visited have appeared quite interested in the project, agreeing that such services have been needed for a long time. However she adds that it is still hard to find foster homes.

"This is because most families are somewhat leary about the implications of foster parenting in such a close-knit community," she said.

Mr. Sullivan mentions that once adequate emergency receiving and/or foster homes are established, Mrs. Taylor's other priorities will include developing some sort of adoption capability on the reserve, introducing more family support and recreational programs and organizing new resources (i.e. counselling) specifically for the reserve's adolescent population.

He adds that she has already made efforts to encourage more involvement from the Curve Lake elders by drawing on their knowledge of the native culture.

Mrs. Taylor qualified to work with both CAS and Band

Mrs. Taylor was previously employed as a nursing assistant in a nursing home and a foster parent. Despite these qualifications, however, the project committee felt it of prime importance that she be able to work well with both the CAS and the Band Council.

"The committee was also concerned that she could develop good relationships with the reserve community," Mr. Sullivan said.

Besides basic on-the-job experience, he explains that Donna is now receiving some more formal child care training as she fulfills her work responsibilities.

In fact, he says, she has just returned from a one-week training session related to the Garber Project.

Mrs. Taylor comments that although the CAS has been very supportive, she has gained a good portion of her experience directly on the job.

"Lately I only go to the Society with a problem," she said, "the best way to learn is by doing and perhaps making mistakes."

While continuing to maintain close contact with Donna and the Band Administration office, Mr. Sullivan has also undertaken a series of activities to try to make the Band more aware of "what the CAS is all about".

For example, he has invited Band members to visit the Society and has arranged tours of some of the other very key agencies that might be involved with the reserve children – the Court, Probation and Aftercare and the Juvenile Diversion program.

Project promotes new understanding between agency and reserve community

Mr. Sullivan notes that one of the most special effects of the project so far is the amount of understanding that is beginning to develop between the CAS and the Curve Lake Band members.

"There is just an ease, a relaxation, a feeling of trust between the agency and the reserve that was never there before," he said, "we can actually talk about our problems and that's half the battle."

He attributes much of this new cooperation to Donna's groundwork.

"She has been able to establish a rapport with her own people that we could have never done on our own," he said.

But he is quick to emphasize that without the full support of the Chief and Band Council, the project would have never been launched in the first place.

"We've got the Chief and the Band Administrator working right behind us – they've really been very accommodating even though they have so much more to lose, he said.

It's so good to be able to participate jointly in problem-solving and to consult with the Chief or even the Band members."

The Society, he says, is committed "100 per cent" to the project.

"We've known for a long time that we weren't providing good care to the reserve because of a basic mistrust," he said, "so now that things are beginning to happen, we've got to continue to make this work because we could never go back to the other way."

New Durham Region Team Links Up "Special Needs" Families and Treatment Agencies

A new link in the service delivery network for Durham region preschoolers with special needs attempts to support both families and agencies by coordinating cases requiring information, assessment and/or treatment.

As the person responsible for administering the "Case Coordination" programme, Joan Bryce explains, the focus is prevention through intervention.

"We try to ensure that special needs children are receiving the most appropriate services at the appropriate time," she said, "in other words our aim is to reduce the possibility of a crisis by working with a family when the signs or problems first become evident."

She emphasizes that they do not provide direct services but fulfill a type of advisory role to make parents more aware of their rights and responsibilities as advocates for their special needs children.

"Many families struggle with their own feelings as they try to come to grips with a 'special' situation. It is important that such parents fully understand the needs of their children and at the same time not become threatened by professionals or agencies, she said.

We want them to know exactly what resources are available and how to take advantage of this help but then we encourage them to go after the resources themselves."

Though Ministry-funded, programme operated out of Health Unit

The Case Coordination programme is funded 100 per cent by the Ministry under the Developmental Services Act (with a 1982-83 budget of approximately \$125,000) and sponsored by the Durham Regional Health Unit.

Mrs. Bryce says that as a relatively universal and neutral agency familiar with children from birth, Public Health was deemed the best place to locate such an effort.

She goes on to explain that she first developed the service proposal some two years ago with the assistance of a resource body, the Interagency Advisory Group and the Mental Retardation Working Group for the Peterborough area.

The programme was approved by the Ministry in March, 1981 and full operations launched as of last October. The current project team consists of Mrs. Bryce as Case Coordinator and two case managers.

The Interagency Advisory Committee, which includes representation from some 19 regional service providers, continues to meet monthly to assist the development of the case management system and ensure continued cooperation among member agencies.

To help coordinate programme operations on a daily basis, one worker from each of these agencies has also been selected to act in a liaison capacity.

"In short", she notes, "all of our member agencies have really committed themselves to the project.

"A representative of each senior management team sits on the advisory committee and a frontline staff member has assumed the role of liaison person to keep in close contact with and support fellow workers."

Case coordination a relatively informal process

Mrs. Bryce terms case coordination essentially a "casual service", adding that the key to the programme is "learning to accept families as they are - adapting to their level of understanding."

She explains that referrals to the team generally receive three visits - the first involves merely an introduction to the service followed by a

second meeting within the same week to discern how the parents feel about their "special needs" child.

The third visit, she notes, is an attempt to present the families with some positive outlets - inform them about infant stimulation or nursery programs, financial resources available for special education and even other groups of parents with similar children.

"We want to give them a lift by making them realize that things can happen right away," she said.

She emphasizes that at this stage the parents are encouraged to ask their own family doctor to conduct an assessment on the child but should this pose any problems, the case coordination team is always ready to help.

"We get to know the parents quite well and would like to think that there comes a point where families really want to make the contacts themselves, she said.

However we do everything we can to make their involvement as easy as possible by undertaking a lot of 'behind the scenes' work and should the situation prove to be more than they can handle, we will go to bat for them," she said.

Once the recommendations for programming are determined, the team will search out possibilities and then advise their clients of suitable resources.

She emphasizes that the timing of this feedback is very important since the parents must be prepared to make the final decisions.

"What counts is that suggestions are presented only when the parents are ready because it is not productive to alienate them, she said.

I should also mention that they won't always end up choosing what we prefer but we support them no matter the direction they decide to take and we will stay with them for as long as they need us."

Inter-agency cooperation another element of programme

Mrs. Bryce notes that if a number of agencies have already been involved with a particular referral, the team will call a case conference to coordinate past assessment information and identify ongoing treatment needs.

She explains that each agency is asked to detail their history with the client and indicate future requirements. From this a three-month action plan is drawn up to specify individual agency responsibilities including the most appropriate prime worker for the case.

With the completion of the conference, these duties are written up formally and sent out to everyone involved in the case.

"This ensures that the professionals are accountable to one another and that one particular frontline worker has overall responsibility for case management, she said.

At the same time we hope that it will prevent children from being lost in the system or all of a sudden reappearing with a host of problems."

She adds that such interagency cooperation helps reduce the possibility of risk.

"The agencies themselves have said that a coordinated effort makes their job more pleasant because they are no longer alone in their decisions."

Team handles a range of "special needs" children

Although the team deals primarily with developmentally or multiply handicapped children, they have also seen cases involving environmental deprivation, disabilities such as blindness or deafness, behavioural problems and emotional disturbances.

As of the end of June, 1982 (the first seven months of full operations) there have been some 87 referrals to the case coordination programme; 23

per cent of which are developmentally handicapped, 21 per cent from a 'high risk' environment, 13 per cent physically handicapped, 11 per cent developmentally delayed, and six per cent multiply handicapped.

Approximately 75 per cent of the referrals have come from the Health Unit's Infant Stimulation programme or public health nurses with other sources ranging from paediatricians, specialized preschool programmes and social service agencies to the families themselves.

Some 85 per cent of the children were between birth and five years of age at the time of referral while the remaining 15 per cent were over five (most of this group referred due to a particular crisis).

Of the programme's 87 cases, 58 are currently active with 29 receiving minimal assistance or consultation only.

Mrs. Bryce notes one particularly interesting case of an immigrant family with a special needs child.

"Since most of the family's problems stemmed from isolation, we suggested to the parents that they might like to 'adopt' grandparents for the little boy. Now the child has his own set of surrogate grandparents and the elderly couple are so delighted to be able to help the family, she said.

So, our work can really range from a quite simple resolution such as this to more complex problems requiring daycare or medical services."

Belleville-Area Facility for MR Children Develops New Image

After over a year of change and "development" Plainfield Children's Home, a Schedule II facility located north of Belleville, emerges this fall with a new look.

The Plainfield program has been modified to reflect a growing emphasis on normalization over a strictly custodial approach to care and the Home itself restructured in order to better implement this developmental model.

As Plainfield's Executive Director, Fred Brooks explains, this has meant the introduction of distinct living environments based on ability, an increased commitment to educational programming, a new emphasis on physiotherapy and specialized treatment as well as further parental involvement in facility operations.



Plainfield resident at play . . .

The rationale for these changes, he notes, is to give the children an opportunity to expand their horizons despite their handicaps.

"We can't assume anyone's potential until we provide them the opportunity to experience alternatives and systematic teaching tasks, he said.

With these new services, the children can move to different training areas and we hope eventually develop to the maximum of their physical abilities."

Home first launched to treat high-risk infants

Plainfield was first opened in 1954 to provide care for "high-risk" infants - those severely and profoundly retarded children with essentially terminal prognoses.

In 1964 the Home was incorporated as a non-profit organization funded by the Ministry of Health and formally administered by an independent Board of Governors. The Ministry of Community and Social Services took over fiscal responsibility in 1974 when all such residences were placed under the legislative authority of the Developmental Services Act.

Today as a Schedule II facility Plainfield is funded by the Ministry at 100 per cent of its operating expenses but managed by a 23-member Board. The Home's 1982-83 budget is approximately \$1,500,000, representing an increase of 11 per cent over 1981-82.

In recent years the facility has expanded its scope to service a range of retarded children who are also multiply handicapped. This comprises the hearing or visually impaired and those with spina bifida - in fact some 95 per cent of the Home's current population is confined to wheelchairs.

The total capacity of Plainfield is 75 including two emergency or parent relief beds. Right now there are some 69 children in residence (35 boys and 34 girls) with an average age of approximately twelve years. Although referrals are accepted from all over the province, the majority of these children come from Toronto, Peterborough and Kingston.

Changes aim at normalization and community integration

A key feature of Plainfield's developmental approach to care, Mr. Brooks explains, is an expanded emphasis on both normalization and community integration.

Within the facility, this has been partially accomplished through the establishment of homogeneous living quarters based on the children's needs and abilities.

At one end of the spectrum, the units range from the "north wing" with its emphasis on both custodial (i.e. physiotherapy) and developmental care (i.e. high infant stimulation) to meet the daily needs of a severely/profoundly retarded population to the "south wing" which provides increased developmental training in the form of school and community experiences for its severely to moderately retarded residents.

The higher functioning children are placed either in the "solarium" where the focus is on more advanced school programming (including some life skills training) or in the facility's "apartment" to learn specific life skills.

The implementation of these new units has necessitated a massive renovations program, scheduled to be completed by October. The total cost of the construction is \$120,000 with the Ministry providing a capital grant of \$80,000.

In addition to a total regular staff of 73, (which implies a staffing ratio of one to seven in each of the four areas) Mr. Brooks notes that a wide variety of consultants are being tapped to provide for the special needs of the residents.

This includes the services of a medical director, a communications team of speech pathologists and psychologists, physiotherapists, an orthopaedic paediatrician and a dentist. The implementation of the "Special Needs/Services Agreements" has also ensured that all children are now being seated appropriately (and thus are mobile).

He adds that this fall will see the launching of an internship program for Queen's University special education students and doctoral candidates in psychology as well as a series of field placements for those involved in M.R. training courses at Loyalist College.

Education means to community integration

Mr. Brooks is perhaps most proud of Plainfield's new educational program, emphasizing its particular contribution to the community integration theme.

He estimates that 75 per cent of the residents are now involved in some sort of school program ranging from on-site classes to an integrated community nursery school or William R. Kirk, a local school for the "trainable mentally retarded".

The two facility classrooms (or two teachers) have been provided through a Section 28 agreement with the Hastings County Board of Education in order to equip the children with the prerequisite skills necessary for entry into the William R. Kirk program.

He notes that of 17 children placed in the on-site classes last year, 14 have graduated to the community school while an additional 22 already enrolled are scheduled to continue in the TMR program.



Some music appreciation . . .

New format encourages parental advocacy

Another component of Plainfield's new emphasis on "development" is the promotion of parental involvement in facility activities.

This has been orchestrated partly through the establishment of parent encounter discussion groups in two strategic locations - Peterborough and Toronto.

The groups, Mr. Brooks explains, meet periodically throughout the year to "compare notes" as well as discuss potential program changes.

"They assist me in terms of program delivery by providing feedback and are really quite excited to be so actively involved, he said.

At the same time, the groups give the parents an opportunity to talk to others about similar concerns and specifically what it means to have a developmentally handicapped child."

He adds that parents and their families are also encouraged to take part in at least two annual facility events - the Christmas party and the summer days festival.

"At last summer's picnic, for example, it was really beautiful to see siblings coming together to participate in the wheelchair races," he said, "such events help bridge that gap between the facility and the family."

Cornwall Network a Community Approach to Servicing Developmentally Handicapped

A rather innovative approach to community based programming for the developmentally handicapped is the decentralized delivery network in the Cornwall District.

The "Cornwall Project", as it is more commonly known was the "brain-child" of Dr. Andrew Molino and was launched in 1979. Today it consists of six residences or group homes, one psycho-social assessment and consultation team and four developmental service or satellite units.

Ottawa Area Program Supervisor, Frank Szabadka explains that the impetus for the introduction of this "comprehensive approach to deinstitutionalization" was the difficulty of delivering specialized M.R. services to a largely rural region containing cultural and linguistic disparities.

The Cornwall District consists of five counties with one (Dundas) predominantly Anglophone, two (Stormont and Glengarry) split evenly between Anglophone and Francophone and the remaining two (Prescott and Russell) primarily Francophone. The total population of the region is approximately 150,000 people; one-third of which reside in or around the city of Cornwall.

Prior to the introduction of the project, M.R. assessment and consultation services were only available from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa. Residential and institutional programs were situated outside the district at either the St. Lawrence Regional or Rideau Regional Centres (Schedule I facilities) while family support services were non-existent.

He goes on to explain that given the very clear call for a range of M.R. services in a decentralized system but at the same time the need for professional support to guide their

establishment, planning and implementation of the new network was a collaborative effort of the Cornwall District Working Groups and the St. Lawrence Regional Centre.

All services were to be established on a contract basis with various local agencies but funded 100 per cent of operating costs by the Ministry and administered by the St. Lawrence Regional Centre.

Institution and community groups complement each other in planning process

Dr. Molino is especially proud that a Ministry-operated institution and community groups were able to work together to introduce a range of new services.

"It was recognized that this expansion in service was required but the local planning bodies felt that they were not strong enough to set up operations themselves and the institution was lacking community expertise, he said.

The Centre agreed from the outset that all such programs would eventually be transferred to community control."

Initially it was proposed that the Ministry would oversee the project for a period of two years at which time these responsibilities would be reassigned to a non-profit board or corporation representative of all involved local planning bodies.

However, Mr. Szabadka explains that with the network in full operation, it became increasingly evident that the concept of a community board was not operationally feasible. In December, 1980 this strategy was dropped in favour of a plan to assign local autonomy to each of the sponsoring agencies.

He notes that the transitional period ended up stretching into three years with administrative and fiscal control transferred officially on March 31, 1982.

Today's network mix of residential and support programs

Today the M.R. service system for the Cornwall District contains a mixture of residential and support elements providing French and/or English assistance according to location and type of sponsoring agency.

And although these programs are really quite separate entities, Mr. Szabadka says that the operational linkages will remain intact.

"They still choose to call themselves part of the original Cornwall project," he said.

Anglophone services have been established by the Dundas County Association for the Mentally Retarded in the form of a 10-bed adult group home in Winchester and a developmental services unit in Morrisburg.

The Prescott-Russell AMR operates two francophone/bilingual components in Hawkesbury - a 10-bed children's group home and a developmental services unit as well as a services unit in Embrun.

A bilingual 20-bed adult group home administered by the Glengarry AMR is located in the village of Glen Robertson while the Glengarry Memorial Hospital sponsors a bilingual services unit in Alexandria.

There are three group homes directly in Cornwall - a ten-bed bilingual adult residence operated by the Cornwall and District Association for the Mentally Retarded as well as two five-bed anglophone children's homes administered by Open Hands, Inc., a non-profit charitable corporation. The Assessment and Consultation Team is also located in the city under the auspices of the Cornwall General Hospital.

Homes offer services to a range of clients

Mr. Szabadka notes that the 60 community beds in six homes can provide short and long-term residential services to essentially all ages

and levels of functioning, with the exception of severely and profoundly retarded children.

Primary consideration for admission, however, is given to Rideau Regional Centre (or St. Lawrence Regional Centre) residents who were originally from the Cornwall District with individuals living in the District (but who could benefit from a group home experience) next in priority.

All such community living arrangements involve a total commitment to normalization. For the adults this means participating in life skills or sheltered workshops while the children attend school on a daily basis.

He explains that the adults are asked to decide on their own whether they wish to move into a community residence and are given the opportunity to see the group home before they make their choice. Should they select this alternative, they are asked to voluntarily discharge themselves from the institution.

Once they decide to leave the facility, they are prepared for entry into the community through a fairly extensive life skills program.

He goes on to mention that with parental consent, children are usually transferred directly from Rideau Regional Centre to a group home.

"This is with the reassurance that if the placement fails, the child can be readmitted to the facility," he said.

Since the beginning of the project a total of 81 clients have been served by the group homes with 51 or 63 per cent directly from the Cornwall district and the remaining 30 or 37 per cent from outside the area.

Professional back-up through Assessment and Consultation team

More specialized professional support is offered to the District through a three-person psycho-social consultation team located directly in the city of Cornwall.

As team leader and psychologist George Schlotterer explains, the group (which includes a psycho-metrist and a social worker) act primarily as consultants to assess treatment needs and from this, help plan specific programs or behaviour management techniques.

"We assist both families and local agencies in the development of programming for developmentally handicapped clients by ensuring that a family is connected with the right services and the agency knows the best direction to take with this referral, he said.

In recent months we have even been responding to agency requests for staff training and development."

One key feature of the service, he notes is that team members do make "house calls".

We are free to travel throughout the five-county catchment area to perform assessments and consultations within the homes or in the offices of the referring agents," he said.

During 1981-82 there were approximately 238 referrals to the service, some 20 per cent of which were from within the Cornwall project (i.e. the developmental services units), 20 per cent from strictly generic or private sources, and 60 per cent were from other specialized agencies working with the developmentally handicapped (including group homes and lifeskills workshops outside the project).

He adds that the group facilitated the creation of a five-county infant stimulation program through public health which is now referring all potential problems from birth.

Their client population is virtually evenly split between children and adults, with more than 50 per cent of the children referred under five years of age.

"This suggests", Dr. Schlotterer said, "that the team is playing a major role in the early detection and prevention of developmental handicaps."

The satellite component of the St. Lawrence Regional Centre, the developmental services unit, is a direct effort to prevent problems requiring specialized treatment, institutionalization or readmission to a facility.

Each of the District's four units consists of two para-professional staff members providing case management services, home behaviour management training, skills development training and family support.

Unit counsellors are currently carrying an average of between 11 and 17 cases each, with some 21 cases active in the Dundas unit, 21 in Glengarry, 33 in Prescott and 25 in Russell.

Network brings about successful deinstitutionalization

In a recent evaluation of the Cornwall network, Dr. Schlotterer claims that this facility outreach approach to the implementation of specialized services for the developmentally handicapped has been both successful and effective.

Ministry statistics indicate that the combined population of the two nearest provincial MR institutions, St. Lawrence Regional Centre and Rideau Regional Centre, dropped from a high in March, 1978 of 1,414 to the 1982 level of 1,145; with 57 of the discharges entering the community through the Cornwall Project.

The average number of admissions into all institutions from the five Eastern Ontario counties served by the Cornwall Project declined from 23 persons per year in 1977 through 1980 to an annual average of 15 in 1980 and 1981.

As Mr. Szabadka notes, "our community services are allowing us to 'nip problems in the bud' and at the same time, bring people home."

New Ministry Executives Appointed

John Burkus was appointed in April to the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Program Development, with prime responsibility for directing the Ministry's strategic planning and priority-setting activities.

Mr. Burkus first joined the Ontario Government in 1960 as an economist in what is now the Ministry of Treasury and Economics.

From 1965-67 he was a staff member of the International Labour Organization in Geneva with special responsibility for such social security programs as unemployment insurance, pension and health.

Mr. Burkus rejoined the government in 1967 as a senior economist, a position held until 1971 when he became the first Director of Corporate Plan-

ning and Research for the Ontario Housing Corporation.

From 1974-1982 Mr. Burkus was Executive Coordinator of the Policy and Program Development in what is now the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

He is a commerce graduate of the University of Toronto (1960) and holds a Master of Arts degree in economics from the same university (1962).

Arthur Daniels took up responsibilities in July as Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations. This means overseeing the delivery of adults' and children's social services throughout Ontario.

Mr. Daniels comes to Community and Social Services from the Ministry of Correctional Services where he was most recently the first Executive Director of Community Programs - a division encompassing all community correctional programs.

From 1973-78 he was Director of Personnel and prior to this held various positions (personnel trainee/regional personnel officer and manager, staff relations) within the Ministry's Personnel branch. Mr. Daniels is a graduate in history and philosophy from the University of Western Ontario.

A Final Message...

With considerable regret, I must announce that this is the last edition of the "Children's Services Newsletter". As you are well aware, current economic conditions have had quite a profound effect on all government programs, and this Ministry, not unlike all other provincial departments, must adjust to the impact of fiscal restraint.

During the past 18 months, I enjoyed the opportunity of travelling throughout the province and getting

to know a diverse number of programs and service professionals. The Newsletter was an attempt to establish some sort of ongoing dialogue between regions, agencies and even distinct service categories and I think that the range of letters received in this office to date prove that the publication was fulfilling that information-sharing function.

I would also like to thank the number of people who contacted me with story ideas and especially all of

those visited, who took the time to explain their program philosophies, conduct extensive tours of their operations and even provide coffee and lunch!

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